



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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

**Email: [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)**

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



## May 2022



*"There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish."*

*Philippians 1:6 (The Message)*

Good, loving parents want blessings for their children. God does too, even more so for all of us. In his work, Run with the Horses, Peterson writes that the purpose of religion is not to make people feel good, but to make them good. Love is important and God loves us, "But his love is passionate and seeks faithful, committed love in return. (Like a good parent) God does not want pets to fondle and feed: God wants mature, free people who will respond to him in authentic individuality (not robotic reactions). For that to happen there must be honesty and truth. The self must be toppled from its pedestal. There must be pure hearts and clear intelligence, confession of sin and commitment to faith."

Easter brings incredible promises to us for eternity and for our lives every day. We can put resurrection into the every day practices of our lives, as God's creativity sets us free to live in the strength and newness that God provides. It means being patient with each other; seeking understanding and wisdom together instead of being divided in debate or competition. Where we may have felt trapped, confined, and imprisoned in life, God seeks to bring forth salvation with new possibilities. When we live in the new possibilities, we are, as Peterson called it in his book, Practicing Resurrection, putting our faith into practice.

It is vital that as Christians we put faith into practice, making our relationship with Christ the very real foundation of our lives and relationships. I can think of a wonderful, faithful physician who, even though he has aged over the years and retired many years ago, has never really stopped practicing his calling, however limited it may be. When someone needs healing, he is quick to take the time to connect and share his attention and the grace God has entrusted to him. To live in the faithful lifestyle of disciples, we need each other to continue in trusted friendships, sharing and growing in God's presence. As we move past the limits of the virus, I continue to urge you to strengthen your participation in our fellowship. We continue to have several areas of ministry we need your help in.

### **Great Resignation**

It has been called the "great resignation" by those who have followed the trend; because of the virus, many Americans have reevaluated their lives and its meaning and adjusted their priorities, to reflect a new awakening that focuses on life's meaning and purpose. The result is many people have resigned from their jobs to take new ones, or take some time off to reevaluate life and do things they have always wanted to do, or spend more time with people they love. Many people are trying to identify their priorities, and stay more focused on their higher priorities than they have in the past. I pray that as part of our prayer lives and devotions, we are all, always in tune with the higher priorities God has for us, for our hearts and minds. It is so easy to be distracted away from the blessings God's presence provides.

A group of ladies who faced a lot of adversity in life who I was honored to minister with, adopted for their theme in life, Paul's letter to the Philippians: "I can do all things *through Christ* who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) They brought the practice of resurrection into their lives and community, aware of the choices they made every day to live in God's power. I know we can continue to do so too. Resurrection is a reality for us all, to be lived every day. I pray God continues to help us claim the miracle of life he has entrusted to us all.

- Tim



## Worship in May 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.*



**May 1 ~ Communion** – This Sunday we will share John 21:1-19, the story of the disciples catching fish; Peter works through his guilt about denying and betraying Jesus. Jesus seeks to bring wholeness, peace, deep within our hearts, our souls, and lives. How might Christ stay faithful with us in helping us work through specific issues in our lives too? We will celebrate communion together.

**May 8 ~ Mother's Day** – Do you know your mother's voice? Do you remember it, even if it has been a long time since you last heard her speak? For most of us, it is a voice of great love that taught us how to love and live. We anticipate using John 10:22-30 and may also add verses from John 10:11-18; the focus will be on hearing the voice of Jesus, hearing the assurances and guidance of the One who cares for us deeply, as our mothers do, and understanding how to respond faithfully.



**May 15** A good leader gives space and freedom, plenty of room for others to learn and grow and make their own decisions in life. In John 14: (1-7) 8-17, Jesus prepares the disciples for the decisions they must learn to make as they mature in faith, grow as disciples, and share the Message and presence of Christ with others. We face the same joyful challenges today.

**May 22 ~ Hymn Sing** – Rev. Dr. David Frame will lead at time of hymn sing, introducing the hymns and songs selected for the day's worship. Singing along together will be the main focus of the service, each song tied together with some background information as the messages within the songs are shared. We hope you will join us, as this is the Sunday right after Annual Conference.



**May 29 ~ Memorial Day Weekend** – We will consider real freedom and what it means in faith, how it leads us to faithfully share friendships and our love deeply, and not just doing what we feel like doing. We remember the sacrifices so many have made and are making, so that we might have real freedom. Our worship is likely to use scripture from John 17:20-26, where Jesus prays that we might be of one mind and heart together as disciples.



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### New Member Fellowship

In May, we will be hosting a new member fellowship time to prepare anyone interested in joining the church. If you have an interest, please send Tim an e-mail or call the office and let us know.

# Pastor's Desk

## Books of Worth Sharing



A couple of people have asked me about the books I named and made reference to in the meditation on Easter Sunday. They

included *Practicing Resurrection*, by Eugene Peterson, and *The Language of God*, by Francis Collins. Both books have meant a lot to me and I was especially reminded of the Eugene Peterson's book, because of the great Bible study that Pastor Jim led this past spring on Ephesians, because Peterson's book looks at Ephesians, and strives to put resurrection into practice. I hope you find them as meaningful as I did.

## Lay Leadership



One area very much in need of development is our leadership of the various ministries. Several key, essential positions continue to go unfilled, as they were unfilled when I came here.

We are in need of a Lay Leader to help develop the church's ministries. In the United Methodist Church, we count on more than the pastor leading the congregation. When we choose to follow Christ, we are all disciples in a mentoring relationship with the Lord. Our church continues its search for a Financial secretary, as h | Heather would like to step down from the position, and we also need a Finance Chair to help oversee our whole efforts in stewardship and the processing our resources. We have made some progress on including more counters for our Sunday offering, and we look for additional leadership positions to be filled. The Lay Leadership Team nominations group will meeting this month as we prayerfully consider how God is leading us to call our fiends and members to serve Christ. If you would like to join the group, or have ideas or a sense of call to our ministries, please speak with Pastor Tim, or send an e-mail or call. [pas-tor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pas-tor@westgroveumc.org) 484.720.8626

## You Are Invited!

### Mission Meeting



**See if this team is a fit for you.**

We are looking to strengthen our efforts in our Missions ministries, everything from our Food Pantry to our support of the people of Ukraine, and missions in Africa are included. This church share a lot of its personal resources with others from the heart. I am grateful to be serving a church that does not see itself or treat itself like a museum. How can we make greater personal connections with the people whose lives we touch? How can we help them hear and know God's love in Christ more completely? These are vital questions to answer as we want our ministries to be effective in such a mission.

**The next meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 17 at 6 pm in the church conference room.**

## Easter Thank You



A great Easter thank you to all who came, and especially everyone who took part. Special thanks to Dick Stuhrke, Debbie and Jake Schneider for playing the hymns at the sunrise service, and to Karen Hruz for her wonderful Easter message from her heart. We also express great thanks to all of our musicians, our Bell Choir, and Chancel Choir, along with the Praiseworks musicians, and Betsy and Sandy for their leadership. It was great to have so many together again, with 137 in person, 9 live on-line, and 42 views during the week as of Friday. We look forward to the fellowship and worship ahead, when long term friends and new ones can all feel at home together. Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! And we look forward to the specific ways God is at work bringing forth new life in our hearts and lives, as individuals and as a fellowship.



## Drive-Up Food Distribution



## WGUMC Food Pantry

We continue to be busy meeting the food needs of families in our community facing food insecurity. We generally provide food to **16-20 families each week**. The bulk of the food we distribute comes from the Chester County Food Bank. Donations from members of our church and the local community supply the rest of the food. Presently the **items most needed include**: canned fruit, corn tortillas, granola bars, rice, pasta, mac 'n cheese, cereal, crackers, soup. Food donations may be placed in the shopping cart outside the lobby doors. If you care to volunteer with the food pantry, in some capacity, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net.) Thank you.



## MIGHTY WRITERS

Mighty friends,

Here we are, spring 2022, COVID behind us, the world at peace, hope and flowers blooming simultaneously, all of us healed and feeling Mighty.

Okay, so maybe that sentiment needs some slight revision. Closer to the truth, at least here at Mighty Writers, is this: We're still in a bit of recovery mode — like you, a bit wobbly — but also, like you, leaving the door ajar in hope that renewed optimism will blow through.

Hope is what reignites the dreams and imaginations of the Mighty kids we've been serving since 2009. And here at Mighty Writers, nothing is more important.

After far too many months of Zoom school, canceled birthday parties, time alone spent watching YouTube, playing Roblox and busting mirror dance moves to Doja Cat and Lil Nas X, kids are mostly back to real life — and for us, that means gearing up for spring and summer workshops and camps.

We're keeping our hopes (along with our masks) close to our hearts and holding tight to our communities, which is where we find the Mighty spirit that emboldens us.

You've been with us through this bumpy ride every step of the way. We hope — and need — you to hang tight with us now.

With Mighty love,

Tim Whitaker, Executive Director

twhitaker@mightywriters.org

To donate by check, send to:

Mighty Writers, 1501 Christian St., Philadelphia PA 19146



## Thank you for Helping!

I would like to thank everyone who helped decorate the



church for the Easter Season. I really appreciate all that you did. Thank you! Linda Shiplet

Gene & Alison Aucott, Kim O'Neill, Cindy Haley, Caryl Stuhrke, Dave Talley, Pastor Tim, Paulette Bryan, Ralph Curtiss, Nancy and Mike Duvall, Jean Kilmartin, Bonnie Wolff and Heather & Bill Ditzel.

## A Note from Steve & Melanie May

Many of you have been following the travels of the Mays as they hike the Appalachian Trail on Facebook. For those who don't, here is note that they sent for you!



***Good morning from Franklin, NC! Steve and I are at breakfast at the First Baptist Church and heading back to the trail shortly. We appreciate all your support and prayers and hope everyone is doing well back in West Grove.***

***Take care ~ see you in a few months!***

***Steve and Melanie May***



**Thank you to all who have spent time on Sunday mornings volunteering in the nursery!**

We continue to be blessed with wonderful little ones to spend time with on Sundays and watch them grow!

**We are in need of additional volunteers for the 9:30 a.m. and Sunday School hours.**

If you are interested in helping in the nursery (about once a month), please contact Amy Castaldi at [ahass17@hotmail.com](mailto:ahass17@hotmail.com) or at (610-468-4321).

## A Note of Thanks for the KnitWits



***The family of John Pridemore thanks you for your kind expression of sympathy.***

***Thank you so much for making those blankets for patients in the ICU. It made me happy to think that he was warm and the blanket is more beautiful than the hospital sheets and blankets.***

***Kim, Amanda, Mike, Jordan and Sadie***

## Retired Active People



## Retired Active People (RAP)

**Friday, May 13, 2022, 12:00 PM**

Thank you to all who helped with our April gathering. We enjoyed a great afternoon of fellowship, desserts and a wonderful inspiring program presented by Michael Duvall. This past winter he traveled to Kenya, Nairobi, as part of a mission team and shared the work and culture of the region with us. Thank you, Mike; we look forward to hearing more about your trip in the future.

Please join us at our next gathering on Friday, May 13, 2022, at noon in the sanctuary of the church. Bring your lunch, and as always, we will enjoy provided beverages and delicious desserts.

Our May program is entitled “A Salute to the Silent Service” and will be presented by Dick Stuhrke. Dick is a RAP member and a member of West Grove UMC. The program will be both a slide presentation and “show and tell” featuring 5 iconic submarines: the USS Trigger of WW2 fame; the USS Nautilus, the navy’s 1<sup>st</sup> nuclear powered submarine; the USS Albacore, a unique little guy who played an important role in the development of nuclear powered submarines; the USS Ohio, the navy’s 1<sup>st</sup> big boomer; and the USS Delaware, the navy’s latest fast attack submarine whose commissioning was recently celebrated in the Port of Wilmington. The “show and tell” will include a scale model of each these submarines, all built from scratch, that Dick will bring to his talk. Dick says, “Every effort will be made to make the mundane subject of submarines as interesting and as colorful as possible to the “ole folks” of RAP.”



If you are available to help with our setup, starting at 10:30 am, or stay a few minutes later to help with cleanup, please call Sara Ann Ramberger (610-869-3863). Thank you to those who sign up each month to provide desserts. If you would like to be more involved with RAP or have a program of interest to provide or know of someone willing to give a presentation, please let Sara Ann know. We would like to start lining up our programs for the coming year. This is our last meeting until September. Sometime this summer we hope to have the lineup of programs for September 2022 through May 2023. Look for details in our summer newsletter.

Again, thank you to everyone who helps make our gatherings each month both interesting and delicious. We are so delighted to be back on a regular monthly schedule from September through May on the second Friday of the month. 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



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

**THE EXTENT OF  
CHRIST'S LOVE**

During our recent Ephesians Bible study on Monday nights during Lent, Paul prayers for the church at Ephesus, praying that they may grasp the extent and power of the love of Jesus.

***"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*** (Eph. 3:17a-18).

We live in a three-dimensional world of width, length, and height. But if you look at this verse you will see Paul speaks of four dimensions, wide, long, high, and deep! So how does the love of God exist in four dimensions?

John MacArthur, Jr. in his book, God, Coming Face to Face with His Majesty, helps to explain the dimensions of God's love in Christ. John says, 1.) "How broad (wide) is His love? Broad enough to reconcile Jew and Gentile and make



them one in Christ". The study in Ephesians was entitled, "The Unity of the Church in Christ", speaking about unifying the Jews and Gentiles into one body, together, called the church. 2.) "How long is His love? Long enough to stretch from eternity past." 3.) "How deep is His love? Deep enough to reach us when we were dead in our trespasses and sin." 4.) "How high is His love? High enough to raise us up and seat us in heaven with Him."

As Christians, it is the love of Jesus that gives us the power to live and to love others. Its **breadth** – can reach anyone. Its **length** – runs from eternity past to eternity future. Its **depth** – it reaches down to the vile bottom of sin. Its **height** – it takes us into the very presence of God, the Father, and the Son, in heaven. That is the power of Christ's love for us, and we should build our life upon it and share that love with others.

Pastor Jim



**Jenner's Pond Residents:** Join us for worship on **May 8th at 11 a.m.** On your closed circuit TV and in-person in Alison Theater, Led by Pastor Jim

# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



## Last Youth Group May 1, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Ending the year with our favorite games, pizza and looking at some fresh ideas for next year!

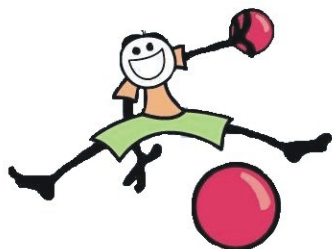
This is a combined middle and high school youth group meeting. We have had a wonderful year of learning and connecting as a group. Our first year having a middle school group in a number of years has been wonderful, and we have had new friends become part of our youth group family.

We are so thankful for all the support and prayers for our students this year. We look forward to some summer fun and the start of a new program year in September!



## Dodgeball & Game Night

May 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



We'll be playing outside this evening! Rain date will be available if needed.

All students in grades 6-12 are welcome to come, friends are always invited as well!

Students need \$4 for pizza and a health/permission waiver form.

Contact Melanie Hartley for information or forms.



## Eggstravaganza 2022 Recap

Our first Eggstravaganza event in two years was a great success! We had a wonderful day of egg hunting, crafts, and games for over 50 children and their families. Thank you so much to the volunteers and those who donated items for our special day. We look forward to the fun family events we have planned for next year!

## Children's Worship: Sunday, May 1

9:30 a.m. service

All Children stay in worship to participate in the communion service.

## Children's Sunday School

Sunday mornings, 10:45-11:45 a.m.

***Our end-of-the-year celebration will be Sunday, May 15! We'll have some snacks and fun trivia and games from our units from this year.***

We are so thankful for our first program year back in-person after a year and a half of virtual sharing. Thank you to all of the parents and volunteers that are a part of all of our Children's Ministry program. We are excited for the new ideas and plans for the new program year in September!





## Vacation Bible School 2022

**July 11-15, 9 a.m.-Noon**

This year, we are heading to Discovery on Adventure Island!

Our little explorers will be on a Quest to find God's great light! With daily missions to find the five Infinity Lanterns to light our way. Old and New Testament stories will teach children about love, trust, hope, joy and faith.

VBS needs you and all of your wonderful gifts!

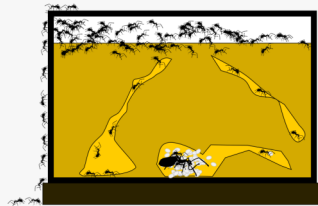
Whether it's guiding a group of children, leading a bible lesson, or sharing your warm smile at the registration table, we want you to be a part of a wonderful week for our church and community. Contact Melanie Hartley if you would like to volunteer for a great week of VBS!

We can't wait to see you there!



## Children's Morning Out and Preschool

We are in the midst of some exciting days here in preschool. Spring is a season full of opportunities for learning about the world around us. And we have been taking full advantage of that! We are so lucky that Pastor Tim has visited the classes to plant seeds with the children that will contribute to beautifying the church grounds once they have grown. Some local superheroes from the West Grove Fire Co came to visit and talk with the children about fire safety and smoke detectors. We had Police Officer Richards come to talk with us and show us his patrol car. Dental hygienist from Chester County Dentistry for Children and we got to climb onto a school bus here at our school to teach us about the jobs these community helpers do to make our world a wonderful place. Exciting things are happening in the classroom for the next few weeks, too. The classes will have caterpillars and an ant farm to observe! When they are ready, we will be releasing all of our butterflies and ants outside. Our fantastic teachers are helping the children learn so much each day with their creative and interactive lessons. We are excited to show our families some of the artwork we have created this year at our Art Show. It is so hard to believe we are entering the final month of our school year. We are looking forward to some warm and sunny days ahead!!



*Heather Smalley, CMO & Preschool, Director*

## UMC SUMMER CAMPS



Camp & Retreat Ministries involves not only the quality management of these four remarkable sites, but also the diverse, enriching programs and dedicated staff and volunteers who truly define them as ministries. Each of these beautiful, blessed oases are what they rightly claim to be: "God's place apart, transforming lives."

The Eastern PA Conference owns and operates four unique, scenic camp and retreat centers spread across different regions of the conference: **Pocono Plateau** in the upper northeast; **Carson-Simpson Farm** just north of Philadelphia; **Innabah** centrally located in Spring City; and **Gretna Glen** in the northwest area. **Visit their websites** at: [innabah.org](http://innabah.org), [gretnaglen.org](http://gretnaglen.org), [poconoplateau.org](http://poconoplateau.org) and [csfarm.org](http://csfarm.org).

All four centers truly come alive during Summer Camp, with hundreds of excited children and youth learning, playing, being nurtured and making friendships and lifetime memories. Some sites are busy year-round hosting retreats, picnics, confirmation classes and other special events. Our Camp & Retreat Ministry centers are places where people of all ages and backgrounds can experience God's love and creation together in a caring Christian community, as they grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. Contact them today to plan or register for an event!

In addition, please support them and help more young people with limited resources to benefit from summer camp through Camper Scholarships. With many families still struggling with economic difficulties, the need for scholarships is greater than ever. Every child deserves a chance to be embraced by God's love, as experienced in the caring, life-changing environment of summer camp. Please help us make this possible. Send your contributions to the Eastern PA Conference Treasurer and identify them as donations for Camper Scholarships. *Thank you!*



# Family Promise

## of Southern Chester County

Warm Greetings to you all! We have all been on quite a journey these last few years – including Family Promise. Ever since we moved our families into the space generously donated by Square Roots, Inc., and now serve families who are “doubled-up” with friends or family, we have been working to come up with the best way to serve families in need of emergency housing. We considered buying, renovating, and purchasing a location. We looked into multiple solutions, including trailers, and even tiny houses. We have finally landed on apartment rental.

Beginning this month, we are able to house one family in need of emergency housing. Another apartment will become available in July. We hope to be able to expand this program throughout southern Chester County as we obtain funding. The program model of intensive case management is still in place. The expectation is that the families will stay with us, on average, for 3 months. During that time, they will be able to focus on goals, including finding affordable housing.



In addition, we’re also working to strengthen our program to meet the needs of the families after they have moved in. We now have a Housing Specialist, Guillermo Rivera, who has been a van driver for us, helping us to find affordable housing, and work with landlords.

Please come celebrate 7 years with us at the Creamery on June 2nd! We’d love to see all of you who have volunteered and supported us over the years!

Best Regards, Renna Van Oot, Executive Director

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FAMILY PROMISE

We recently received 2 grants from Family Promise National which all require matching funds. Both of these grants will help families in Chester County that are facing homelessness. The grants are:

- A Future Begins at Home: Housing Grant. This supports our new Promise House program
- A Future Begins at Home: Landlord Engagement Grant

Interested in learning how you can donate to help us match the funds? Please reach out to Liberty Breen our Development Manager.



### SAVE THE DATE!! AN EVENING OF PROMISE: 7TH ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY EVENT—Thu, Jun 2nd 2022 at 5:00 PM

Family Promise of Southern Chester County is hosting a special community event and fundraiser to celebrate its 7th Anniversary on June 2, 2022 starting at 5:00pm at the Creamery of Kennett Square.

Thanks to our community partners and volunteers, Family Promise of SCC helps families experiencing homelessness by providing shelter, meals and social services 365 days/year, at no cost to the families.

Each ticket includes one entrée, one drink, music entertainment, and fun. Beautiful raffle baskets will be available to win so bring your cash for a chance.

Ticket Prices: Adults - \$40 (Before) and \$50 (Door) Children: \$15 (Before) and \$20 (Door) (5 - 12 yrs.)

Children under 5 yrs. FREE

Come join us and be entertained by our own Board Member - George Lock as he performs with The Mayo Family Band, a blue grass band. They will be playing from 7pm to 9pm.

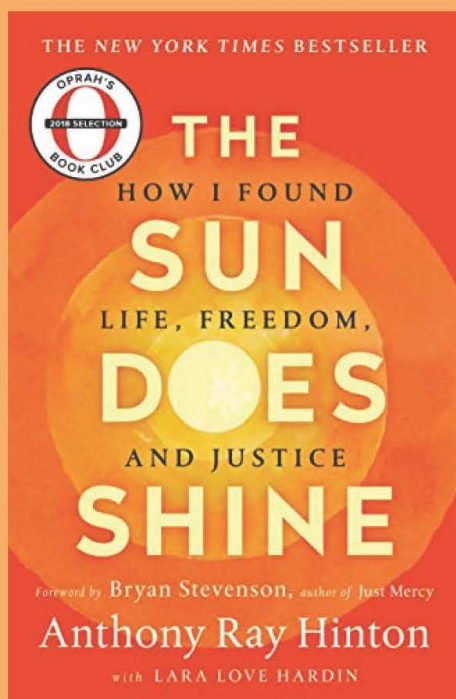
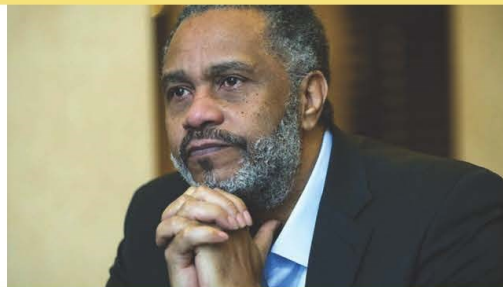


Eastern PA Conference "Learning for Leaders" May 2022 Book Club:

## ***The Sun Does Shine* by Anthony Ray Hinton**

**May 11, 18 and 25, 11:00 AM -12 noon, on ZOOM**

**Anthony Ray Hinton** was exonerated and released from death row in Alabama in 2015, with the assistance of the Equal Justice Initiative. He had served 30 years for two capital murders he did not commit. ***The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life, Freedom, and Justice*** tells his story. Come learn about critical problems that plague our criminal justice system and how you can help make needed changes.



### **Week 1: May 11**

Mr. Anthony Ray Hinton will share his experience.

### **Week 2, May 18**

A representative from the Equal Justice Initiative will describe the difficulties they encounter with the criminal justice system as they pursue equal justice for all.

### **Week 3, May 25**

A panel discussion describing difficulties encountered with the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania.

### **Panelists:**

#### **The Rev. Greg Holston**

Senior Advisor on Policy and Advocacy for the Philadelphia DA office

#### **Ms. Nia Holston**

Staff Attorney, Abolitionist Law Center

#### **Rev. Dr. Larry Pickens**

Executive Director of the PA Council of Churches

### **Register:**

**[na.eventscLOUD.com/SunDoesShine](https://na.eventscLOUD.com/SunDoesShine)**

This event is free of charge and all are welcome.

Sponsored by The EPAUMC Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team, the Commission on Religion and Race, The Urban Commission, and the Congregational Development Team, with additional funding from a Church and Society Peace With Justice Grant.

*"Race, poverty, inadequate legal assistance, and prosecutorial indifference to innocence conspired to create a textbook example of injustice. I can't think of a case that more urgently dramatizes the need for reform than what has happened to Anthony Ray Hinton."*

- Bryan Stevenson



**EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE**

**The United Methodist Church**

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

**REACHING OUR  
MINISTRY/UMC  
TANZANIA, MOROGORO  
UMC APRIL 2022**



**By Missionary Ngoy and Umba Kalangwa**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in CHRIST at WEST GROVE UMC,

Greetings from Morogoro- Tanzania.

May this joyful season of Easter fill your heart with renewed hope, love and peace. Attached document is our Newsletter. We take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers and for your supports,

Wishing you a blessed EASTER.

Yours, Ngoy and Umba Kalangwa

Dear Friends and Mission Partners,

It seems like yesterday that we began missionary work in Morogoro. Umba was commissioned as a missionary on April 4th, 2002. So, on April 4th this year marks Umba's 20th anniversary in reaching the lost souls, training church leaders, bringing hope to children through education, and changing lives in Morogoro.

Ngoy was commissioned on July 28, 2002. So, in July 28 this year will mark Ngoy's 15th anniversary in empowering and bringing hope to the hopeless.

It has been a journey of joys and celebrations and concerns and struggles. Above all, we want to thank the Almighty God for all the blessings bestowed upon us throughout these twenty years of mission. The impact of mission in the lives of the Tanzanian people is tremendous. By the grace of God, we have seen transformation in the lives of people and the community. We glorify the Living God for His mercy toward us and our partners.

Surely without your prayers, encouragement, and financial support, we couldn't have been where we are today. A big thanks to all of you who have made our mission possible. We remain confident that you will continue to walk with us until the end of the journey.

We take this opportunity to wish you a joyful and wonderful Easter. We pray that this Easter season will be one full of much rejoicing in Christ our Lord and Savior!

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!

Umba and Ngoy

To read our Covenant Missionary's April newsletter, click on the link below. There are many pictures and stories of the great things being done in Tanzania! Our church continues to support them annually.

**[Covenant Missionary April 2022 Newsletter](#)**



## West Grove UMC Calendar of Events

Be sure to check out the church calendar on our website. Many activities have resumed such as R.A.P., Bible studies, Zoom and in-person meetings, and Giving Envelopes to pick up to name a few.

**Sunday School** has classes for adults (Faithlinks and Men's Class) and children of all ages. Your church calendar is reviewed daily and updated with the latest events and meetings. Please refer to our website to get information, updates, calendar events, etc. [www.westgroveumc.org](http://www.westgroveumc.org)

Our church has committed to partnering with Bridge of Hope to be a neighbor to a local family dealing with homelessness. This is a one-year commitment to be a support group for this family. We could still use a



few more volunteers. If you would like to know more about Bridge of Hope and how we are participating with them, please get in touch with Joan Leaman ([jmleaman@comcat.net](mailto:jmleaman@comcat.net).)



## United Women in Faith

## EPA Women's Spiritual Life Retreat ~ May 14

EPAUMC's United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, will sponsor their annual Spiritual Life Retreat on Saturday, May 14, on Zoom, at 9:30 to 11:30 AM. The theme is "Seeking Water in Spiritual Deserts." The keynote speaker will be retired missionary and pastor Dorothy Killebrew. Write to [2022UMWretreat@gmail.com](mailto:2022UMWretreat@gmail.com) to learn more and pre-register. Contact: Polly

Riddle, UWF Spiritual Growth Chair, 215-674-9049. Event Zoom

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712071757?pwd=VW9PQ1BVTUxNcjBDVW43V0ZiVHBmUT09>. Meeting ID: 817 1207 1757.

Passcode: 420555.



# Open Grow Serve



## OUR MONTHLY SHOUT OUTS!

Spring has sprung and there is much life and service to the church happening. 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:

**Pastor Tim for caring and tending to the gardens around the church.**

**All of the volunteers who made our annual Eggstravaganza a super success!**

**Sunday Morning Servants who faithfully greet, usher, offer hospitality, teach Sunday School, count the offering, and care for the children.**

**Those who purchased Taco Kits and contributed baked goods for the CMO Fundraiser.**

**Dave Talley who repaired our roof after the storms blew through.**

**Creating Spaces team who decorated the church for the Easter Season.**

## BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

05/01 Jay Miller  
 05/03 Luke Reynolds  
 05/04 Kim Weingarten  
 05/05 Jeremy Hampton  
 05/05 Margee Michaels  
 05/06 Sandy Deckard  
 05/07 Julie Hughes  
 05/08 Harper Branham  
 05/08 Meika Branham  
 05/09 Dalton Wolfe  
 05/11 Wanda Kreutzfeldt  
 05/12 Rebecca Lestourgeon  
 05/12 Norah Timm  
 05/13 Jack Frost  
 05/14 Emmett Owens  
 05/15 Olivia Eason



05/15 Margaret Rubincan  
 05/16 Brenna Lynne Dunn  
 05/16 Coby van Snik  
 05/17 Barb O'Brien  
 05/17 Nolan Timm  
 05/18 Scott Weingarten  
 05/20 Tyler Curtis  
 05/22 Cynthia Hoover  
 05/22 Steve Michaels  
 05/23 Jeff Laird

05/24 Mark Simonds  
 05/24 Barry Wolff  
 05/25 Esther Culbertson  
 05/26 Cindy Haley  
 05/26 Joshua Hampton  
 05/26 Luke Schneider  
 05/27 David Bohnsack  
 05/28 Greg McCummings  
 05/29 Vivian Paisley

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



**West Grove United Methodist Church**  
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

610-869-9334 [office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org)

[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**

**9:00 a.m.-2:00 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  
Keyboardist

[Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org)

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director

[dvasan5@comcast.net](mailto:dvasan5@comcast.net)

Heather Smalley—Children's Morning Out Director

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

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

Valerie Kapp-Benner - Treasurer

OPEN - Financial Secretary

Dick Stuhrke - 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 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

Cindy Haley and Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinators