



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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West Grove, Pa. 19390
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Email: office@westgroveumc.org

Website: www.westgroveumc.org



April 2023



Balancing Faith & Action

*Jesus said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,
since you have given him authority over all people,
to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.
And this is eternal life, that they may know you,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."
(John 17:1b-3)*

Most of us, at one time or another, may find ourselves feeling like the logistics of life are overwhelming us with demands that insist on taking up all of our attention. The more we feed the monster of things to do, it seems even more demands are made upon our time, our hearts, and minds. In our journey of faith, such an emphasis can be deadly, when it leads us away from our personal relationship with God. For it very quickly becomes the center of our attention and taints everything else we take part in, including the relationships with the people in our lives.

A most extreme example is Judas who lost sight of what was most important and sold out Jesus for a few pieces of silver. He seemed to be seeking some personal ambition and even the other disciples were also often distracted, arguing over who among them was the greatest, are examples for us to understand. They did so several times, even according to Luke, at the Last Supper. We can learn from the choices they made. People then and today seem most interested in tangible, real life results. We want our accomplishments. Many are willing to do whatever they think it will take to get the desired results.

Modern, western psychology uses a term called, "self-actualization." We want people to be fulfilled in life, and many times in the past, various groups of people were kept on the margins, oppressed based on lack of wealth, or their gender, culture, or race. Sadly, there is no shortage of horror stories about how badly people were treated because of the labels assigned to them. Under such a backdrop, helping someone determine and fulfill their dreams seems like a very blessed thing to do. Faithfully, we need to remember the best way to help people is to facilitate "God actualization," a life centered on God's will in an awareness of God's presence in our lives. Such an effort is the purpose of our fellowship in Christ.

At this time of year, especially, when we consider the reality of what Jesus did in going to Jerusalem and confronting the leaders, sacrificing himself on the Cross to bring about transformation, we are led to reconsider just how we are living our lives in faith. At times, it is very challenging to be confronted by the truth. With God's love at our side, we are empowered to do so in very powerful ways, especially when we have close, personal friendships with God and each other. Faith in Christ blesses us, as God leads us to live in the courage to share as Christ taught us. God's love is the essential ingredient to living fully in the promises God intends for us all, and it empowers our sacrifices so that others may know God.

A Tricky Balance

The religious leaders of Jesus' day, and every Christian and every church fellowship faces the challenge of balancing our relationships with God and each other, with the things that need to be done, the practical realities and logistics of life. When God is set first, we find that God's grace-filled priorities are leading us in ways we could never have even considered on our own, and our vision for living is clarified and aligns more completely with the creative possibilities God provides. It can set us free.

Perhaps these dynamics cause you, as all of us do to some degree, to hesitate to take part in our ministries. Many times when God calls us to take part, it can feel overwhelming because God is calling us to do with Him, more than we could ever do or even consider on our own. I pray that fear does not become a dominant part of our lives, and when we have fears, we reconnect more deeply with God's grace to receive the courage and clarity God can provide, especially when we share fellowship in Him. There are blessings before us when we respond faithfully.

Places to Serve Christ at WGUMC

- Leadership Development
- Lay Representative to Annual Conference
- Facilitator of Administrative Board, guiding our meetings
- Children's Sunday School Teachers
- Food Pantry Volunteers
- Sound Booth & Media Tech Crew
- Finance Chair & Committee Members

We seek broad participation of the people who are and will be part of our church fellowship. God calls people of all ages and backgrounds to grow in faith together. We have many opportunities to share fellowship together. Some great, specific ways to engage in faith are upon us this spring and summer. Our Food Pantry has expanded dramatically, and we are blessed with volunteers from all walks of life, even from outside our church fellowship, who have blessed our ministry. Many of the people who come for assistance are Spanish speaking, and I've encouraged people to consider getting a translation app installed on their phone, to make communication much easier. There are many ways to overcome barriers and connect.

We also have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 2, when we offer games and crafts, rain or shine. In Worship on April 2, we will be blessed by the Easter Cantata, "Amazing Love," a great time along with Easter Sunday to invite family and friends to join us, and we hope all of our members are with us. We continue to offer additional ways to share Christ in our Men's group; Juliette women's gathering, and our Sunday School fellowship for all ages. We are making plans to again host times of outdoor fellowship with food and games in the evenings, now that the weather is getting warmer. Events are posted on the church calendar, and we look forward to having you join us. We also share events on our weekly Constant Contact emails, so if we don't have your email address, and want to get our weekly email, please contact the church office.

Bringing Out Our Kneeler

During a recent time of fellowship when we shared where we believe God is leading us, several of us feel called to bring the kneeler and altar rail into the sanctuary to make it more accessible to everyone. Before the virus hit, the Prayer Room was accessible to all for a time of special prayer, and our prayer chain members deliberately made and spent time in the Room praying for individuals, the church, and our world. We want to revive the practices and we are bringing the kneeler out into the sanctuary, so that it can be accessible during worship for anyone who is called to pray there. We also want to keep the Prayer Room accessible to all who may wish to share it. Perhaps there is room for us to have one or two more kneelers with railings made. Our sanctuary has a very contemporary presence to it, and its style brings some great features for faithful ministries. Older sanctuaries were often built with kneeling pads and railings that were used during communion and additional times when a closer relationship with God was sought. We look forward to the ways we can grow closer to Him. – Tim

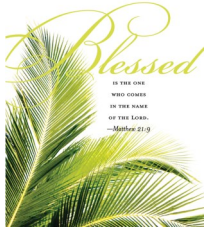


Worship in April at West Grove UMC

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



8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship. Live Streaming on You Tube.



April 2 —Palm Sunday ~ Communion and All Worship Sunday

Our Chancel Choir will present the Cantata "Amazing Love". We are so very blessed to have our musicians offering a narrated cantata for us at our second, 11:00 a.m. service, as they lead us in reflecting on the gifts of Christ, and the sacrifices he made for us. We will still offer a service of scripture, hymns, and communion at the 8:30 time; the cantata is only being shared at 11:00 a.m. Please join us in person and invite others to share in the blessings **found when we worship together.**

April 6 – Holy Thursday Worship with Communion

On Holy Thursday, we will host worship at 7:00 p.m. sharing communion as we remember the Last Supper and consider what Jesus has done for us, and how we respond as disciples. At the end of the service we will read the story of his arrest and the betrayal of the disciples as we leave in silence, considering the ways God seeks to restore our relationship. We pray you will join us.



April 9 - Easter Sunday! He Is Risen!



We'll offer a sunrise service at 6:30 a.m., and our worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m., with the Chancel Choir singing an anthem from the cantata, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus. Easter is at the center of our identity as Christians, as we entrust ourselves every day to God's creativity to help guide us in our growth and maturity of friendship and love in all of our relationships. We will share the traditional Easter scripture, John 20:1-18, and Colossians 3:1-4.

April 16—Second Sunday of Easter

A traditional reading of the story of Jesus and Thomas leads us to understand how we, like the disciples, need to come to terms with the decisions we have made, the things we have done, or left undone. Coming to terms with the scars on the hands and side of Jesus is not easy. By understanding more fully how our decisions have impacted life, we can make adjustments, allow God to transform us in the ways we share faith. Our lives can share huge blessings and we can end the lockdowns in life, and embrace life and God's promises more completely. We'll share John 20:19-31, and I Peter 1:3-9.



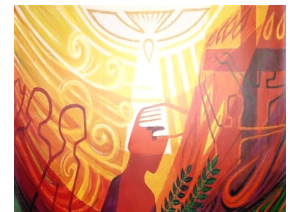
April 23—Third Sunday of Easter



We will share the scripture from Luke 24:13-35, the time when the disciples met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Jesus has a way of making His presence known to us and reenergizing our lives of faith. What a joy it is when it happens! A creative power is among and within us when we are attentive.

April 30—Fourth Sunday of Easter and Confirmation Sunday

We are blessed to have a great group of youth joining the church as confirmed members this year, and so we will share the scripture from John 10:1-18. It is a special day to remember our baptisms and the sacrifices Christ made for us, and how God calls us all to faithfully respond in our lives. Whenever seeking to understand our baptism and how we can faithfully embody it throughout our life,



Jenner's Pond Residents: Join us for worship on **March 12th at 11 a.m.** On your closed circuit TV and in-person in Alison Theater, Led by Pastor Jim

Pastor's Desk

Holy Week at West Grove UMC



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services

11:00 a.m. Service features the Cantata

"Amazing Love"

We are so very blessed to have our musicians offering a narrated cantata for us at our second, 11 AM service, as they lead us in reflecting on the gifts of Christ, and the sacrifices he made for us.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.



On Holy Thursday, we will host worship at 7:00 p.m. sharing communion as we remember the Last Supper and consider what Jesus has done for us, and how we respond as disciples.

Easter Sunday

He Is Risen!

April 9

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

On this triumphant Easter morning, join us at our Sunrise Service outside in the Prayer Garden to proclaim Christ is alive!

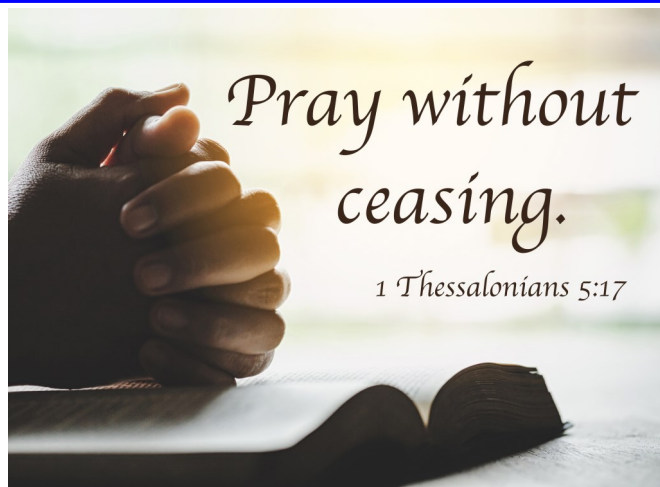
Worship Celebration Services

at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Jenner's Pond Easter Service at 11:00 a.m.



Join us as we celebrate the Risen Christ this day with Services at 6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.



**A Story of how a group of women
from our church
became a *Pray Without Ceasing*
team.**

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

On March 13, 2020, our world shutdown. Gov. Wolfe declared a state of emergency. Schools went virtual without a game plan, assured they would return in 2 weeks. We all know how this turned out.

What you probably don't know is the prayer team began praying by text on March 14th and every evening since then from 7-7:30 p.m. there has been an unceasing chain of prayer.

EVERY EVENING from 7-7:30 for over 3 years now!

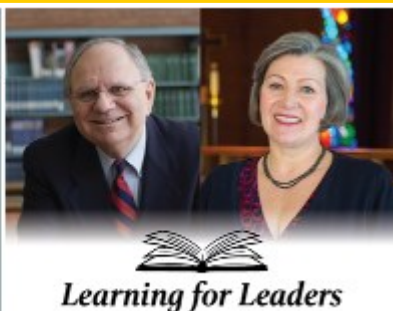
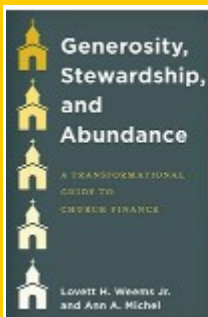
It began with fervent prayers for all afflicted with covid-19, for all healthcare workers; the front-line, many of them experiencing more deaths daily than most of us see in our own lifetimes. We prayed for teachers and students, who were navigating unknown territory, the teachers who were dealing with their own children being taught online. For essential workers, for each and every one of us.

We prayed for our broken world, our turned upside down country, our church. Cautious, at first, then comfortable. It was a reach out from the isolation. All of us have said how it helped us to cope, at least something became "normal" every night at 7 p.m.

As time went on our prayers became more personal, we developed a sisterhood. Know that if you have been lifted up on the prayer chain, we prayed for you, we have lifted up praises for you. We have prayed for healings, family turmoil, and peaceful passings, travel mercies and protection.

It doesn't seem like we hit a milestone of 3 years. Sometimes it feels like yesterday. Every night at 7 p.m., someone is praying.

Susan Paisley (If you have questions, Susan would be happy to talk to you)



Next Learning for Leaders Book Study in April:

EPA invites all to participate in its next four-week, author-led book study April 12, 19, 26, and May 3, at 11 AM to noon via Zoom. Lovett H. Weems Jr. and Ann A. Michel will discuss their new book, *Generosity, Stewardship, and Abundance: A Transformational Guide to Church Finance*.

Register for this free event.

Weems and Michel, of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, will offer practical advice for inspiring responsible stewardship and generosity to fund ministry. They cover church fundraising, stewardship campaigns, budgets, financing capital needs, endowments and innovative approaches to economic sustainability. Sponsored by The EPAUMC Congregational Development Team and open to all to participate.

Food Pantry



West Grove UMC Food Pantry

New Hours:

Wednesdays: 5:00—6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 1:00—2:00 p.m.

We now have over 250 registered families, which is more than 1200 individuals. Our church is serving about 160 families each week.

Donations are greatly appreciated and some of the most requested items include peanut butter, crackers, canned vegetables, tuna, granola bars, cereal, dog food, cat food and cooking oil. We are in need of additional volunteers. There are a variety of ways you can help: stock the shelves, help check in the clients, be an assistant shopper, clean up after the shopping by breaking down boxes for recycle, and much more. Anyone who has an interest should contact Joan Leaman.

We ask for your prayers for the families that are in need of the food support that we provide.

If you are interested, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net)



West Grove United Methodist Church EASTER "EGG"STRAVAGANZA Sunday, April 2nd

2:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Our annual tradition is back in full swing this year and the whole community is invited! There will be outdoor games, treats, and, of course, plenty of eggs to be found! All activities are geared for toddlers through elementary school age children.

The event is "rain or shine"!

You can volunteer to run a game, be a greeter and/or replenish our egg hunt! Let Melanie Jones know of your interest.

TWO PIZZA THURSDAY FUNDRAISER



WHO DOESN'T ENJOY A NIGHT OFF FROM COOKING?!

EACH KIT INCLUDES TWO PIZZAS

Kits can be picked up on Thursday at noon or picked up Friday

The kits can be refrigerated overnight and used on Friday



Pay by Cash or
Check, Tuesday,
the week of the
fundraiser



Vacation Bible School 2023

Save the dates!

Vacation bible school will be
July 10-14,
9:00-12:00 p.m.

We can't wait to see you there!



West Grove UMC Calendar of Events

Be sure to check out the church calendar on our website. There are many activities, groups, events, studies and more going on every week.

Sunday School has classes for adults 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

Retired Active People



R.A.P. Friday, April 10th Noon

RAP met last month on Friday, March 10. We enjoyed a very informative program by Charles Shattuck on "Nesting and Migratory Birds of Spring." Remember, after tax day, get ready for all the migratory birds and those you haven't already been feeding during the winter.

Please join us on Friday, April 14, 2023, at noon in the sanctuary. Bring your bagged lunch. Desserts and beverages are provided. Thank you to all our volunteers who provide desserts and help us set up and clean up. A special thanks to Michael Duvall for his generous time in providing tech support to our speakers.

We are delighted to welcome our very own Jeanette Stryjewski as our guest speaker in April. Jeanette will entertain us with her humor and program entitled, "Fun with Pharoahs."

Come and enjoy a time of fellowship! Everyone is welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Please RSVP to Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or call her at 610-869-3863 to let us know how many to plan for. See you on the 14th.

The RAP Committee:

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



J.U.L.I.E.T.

JULIET...Just us Ladies Interested in Eating Together

The JULIETs will be meeting **Saturday, April 11th** in the church parking lot at 9am. Anyone is welcome to bring a chair and join the conversation. **(In the event of inclement weather, the group will move to the church lobby)**

Questions? Contact Chris Curtiss (610-345-0374)



SPPRC
Staff Pastor Parish
Relations Committee

Job Opportunities

“As you are all aware, last June Sandy Decker retired as our Bell Choir director after 14 years of faithful and dedicated service and last Fall Betsy Smith stepped down as director of our Praise Band. In the interim, Peggy Watkins and Joan Leaman have filled in on a volunteer basis and have done a marvelous job in keeping the bell choir not only together but ringing every 3rd Sunday of the month. Likewise, Betsy has kept the Praise Band together and they continue to bless us at worship with contemporary music on more than one Sunday a month. Bell Choir Director and Praise Band Director are both paying positions. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has been actively seeking a replacement for both these positions since July of last year via various job postings, the internet, the Conference, community bulletin boards, word of mouth etc, all to no avail. Yes,

we have had a couple of nibbles and at one time late last summer we thought we had a resolution. Please know that the search continues unabated.

We ask for your prayerful support and perhaps your help as we continue our search. If you know of anyone that might be interested, have some experience, even if its limited but is willing to grow into the job such as a music major at a nearby college, please let us know for an appropriate follow up. Written job descriptions are available at the church office.”



Dear Friend in Mission,

On the anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine, UMCOR held a Facebook Live prayer for the innocent people

who have been lost to the war and for those who remain displaced from their homes and are in danger, today.

As a partner with UMCOR through your gifts to our International Disaster Response program in the past year, I want to give you the opportunity to view the prayer we posted and join with us in praying for the oppressed and the oppressor.

Please click here to view the Ukraine prayer video on our Vimeo channel.

Blessings,
Tom Farley, Dir. Fund Development
Global Ministries and UMCOR



**Laity Academy events
offered in April, August
for EPA&GNJ**

EPA's Laity Academy invites all EPA and GNJ members to two weekend learning events this year—one online and one onsite. Ruth Hendrickson, who has for years taught Laity Academy courses on prayer, will teach a course based on her new book *Positioned*, via Zoom April 28-29.

Also, the summer Laity Academy will happen August 4-5 in-person at Eastern University in St. David's, PA. This year's theme is "Listen for the still small voice," taken from 1 Kings 19:12. More information about times, courses and registration for both events is coming soon.

**PASTOR JIM'S
CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN**
helping us to live the Christian life
April 2023

**PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN
LIVING COLUMN**

Easter – A time of joy and
thanksgiving
April 2023



As we come into the season of Easter, we leave Lent behind with its time of preparation and look forward to a time of joy and thanksgiving. We are joyful because our Lord and Savior has defeated death and He lives again opening the pathway to heaven for all who acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God. We are also thankful that God, the Father, has given His Son to the world as our redeemer to save us from eternal death.

This month my challenge is for each of you to take about 15 minutes of your time and read 1 Corinthians 15. This is the Resurrection of Christ chapter. To help you better understand what the Apostle Paul is writing about I have noted a few highlights dealing with this theme of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Vs. 4 Christ's resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures. Psalm 16:10 says, "because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay."

Vs. 5-8 The risen Christ appeared to more than five hundred witnesses, including Paul.

Vs. 15-16 If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the gospel message is pointless, empty, and dishonest. Jesus Christ would not be alive,

interceding for us, and we would not be able to place our hope in a glorious future with Him. The Resurrection is central to the gospel and to our faith as Christians.

Vs. 20-26 The resurrection of Christ was designed to reveal what lies ahead for those who put their trust in Jesus. Paul

called Christ "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." Because He has conquered death we do not need to fear death.

Vs. 42-44 Our dead, physical body will one day be resurrected. God will take a perishable, dishonorable, weak sinful body and change it to an imperishable, glorious, eternal body.

Vs. 50 To dwell with God - we cannot live in our current fleshly body, which is corrupt, but we need an imperishable, eternal body in order to live with God.

Vs. 51-54 There is a mystery about the resurrection body, yet revealed to us. At the last trumpet call when Christ returns, in a flash all will be changed, those sleeping and those alive, to an imperishable state to live with God, for "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

Vs. 57 Our joy of Easter is that Jesus has overcome sin and has been victorious over the sting of death and set us free. Hallelujah, praise God.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus may we look forward to the time when we shall be in the presence of the Lamb of God whose sacrifice of life was for our salvation unto eternal life.
Pastor Jim

**UNITED METHODIST MEN
BREAKFAST AND GATHERING**

The monthly breakfast meeting of the men and youth of our church will be **Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the church.** There will be a light breakfast with dishes provided by our men. If you would like to provide a breakfast dish please speak with Pastor Jim or Mike DuVall. The objective of our gathering is to grow our spiritual life for the glory of God. We invite the men of the church to join us. If you plan on attending, please let us know so we can provide sufficiently for those coming. Pastor Jim and Mike DuVall.



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West Grove United Methodist Church
300 North Guernsey Road ~ West Grove ~ PA ~ 19390
610~869~9334

Semi~Annual Rummage Sale



Friday, April 28, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Donations accepted at the church beginning Sunday, April 23

**On Saturday, there is a special bargain because you may fill
a brown paper grocery sack for only \$3.00!!**

**Left-over items are donated to Mission Santa Maria. The
United Methodist Women who sponsor this sale, use the
proceeds to fund various missions in the church and the
wider community.**

West Grove UMC

Children's Morning Out and Preschool



March has been a busy month for our Preschool Friends! We started the month out celebrating Dr. Seuss and our Read Across America Week. Friends (and the teachers!) came to school dressed in their wackiest clothes, silliest socks, and hilarious headbands and hats! Lots of Dr. Seuss books were read and crafts were created. It was a good time for everyone!

This month also brought us Community Helpers Week. The students were visited by Firefighter Lisa and her friends from the West Grove Fire Company. They taught the children all about fire safety in their own homes, showed them all of the gear a firefighter wears to stay safe, and took them on a tour of their firetruck! Our next visitor was Officer Scott Richards from the Oxford Police Department. Officer Richards talked about the exciting job he does keeping the community safe and showed the children all of his cool equipment. Did you know that once he has all of his gear strapped on he weighs 28 pounds more?! We finished up Community Helpers with a visit from Pastor Tim. The kids were excited to see a familiar face and to learn more about Pastor Tim's duties and what it means to receive communion during church services. The children got to learn about the other things that go on in our church building besides preschool. They have plans to plant spring flowers together soon.

A visit from some very silly and mischievous leprechauns happened on St. Patrick's Day here at preschool! Toilet water turned green, toilet paper was strewn across classrooms, messes were made, and chairs were flipped upside down. We were unable to catch those sneaky little guys despite setting some of the most amazing leprechaun traps ever! Maybe next year we will have better luck.

Our pizza kit sales are ongoing and are now on Thursdays! Our next order will be April 11th, for delivery on April 13th. We also have our annual Art Show coming up on April 17th. We will be holding a bake sale during the art show, so if you have a goody you will be willing to bake and donate please let us know!

All the best,

Abbie Gruscavage, Director

Pizza Tuesday is switching to Pizza Thursday! We are ordering the pizza kits to be **delivered on Thursdays**. These kits are fun and easy to make and can be stored

in the fridge for a couple of days if Pizza Friday is your thing! Of course, all proceeds benefit the programs of the preschool, as well as it's Scholarship Program.

Thank you for your continued support with our program!

Contact Abbie with your questions and for order dates.



WGUMC CMO and Preschool Art Show

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 17TH
WHERE: THE CHURCH SANCTUARY
5:45-7:00 PM: STUDENT'S ART WORK ON
DISPLAY
6:00-6:30 PM: SILENT AUCTION
BIDDING ON CLASS ART PROJECTS

THERE WILL BE A BAKE SALE, TOO!
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE BAKED GOODS,
PLEASE BRING THEM ON THE DAY OF THE SHOW.



Join us for the WGUMC CMO and Preschool Art Show. Art is such a wonderful way to express yourself and your creativity. Art is a process and we love for the children to be able to express themselves through art. Every child will have art on display in the Sanctuary. Each class has also created two art projects. We will be auctioning off these class projects through a silent auction. The classes have worked really hard on creating these beautiful works of art and we hope that you will see the love and beauty in each of them.

Abbie Gruscavage, Director

cmo@westgroveumc.org 610-806-5393

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Middle school & High School Youth Group Every Sunday

Youth group is for middle school (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12). Each week we play some games, share some snacks and talk about what's going on in our lives and how faith is a part of our day-to-day living.

Middle school: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

High School: 4:15-5:30 p.m.

Youth Group schedule: April 2023

April 16, 23, 30

No Youth Group April 2 & 9

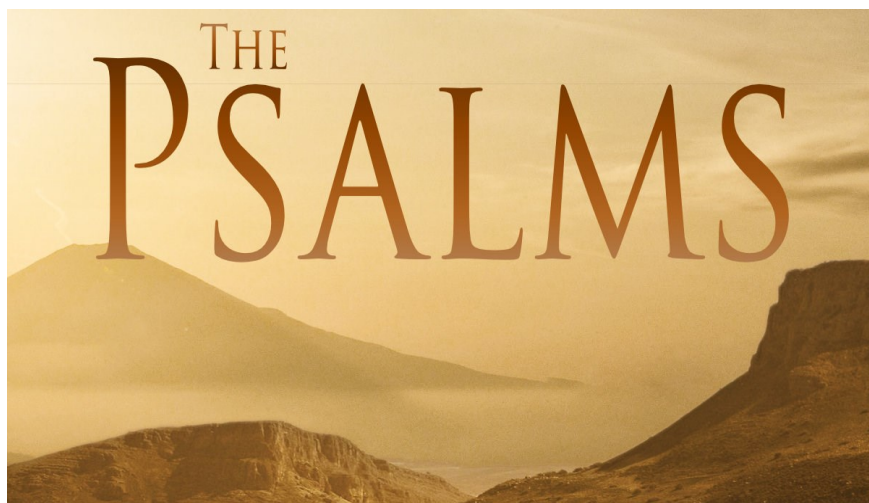
THANK YOU

Summer Service Week Chili Cook-off

Thank to everyone who participated and attended the chili cook-off! About 50

people came to laugh, talk and enjoy some great food! The students did a wonderful job meeting and interacting with everyone who attended. **We raised \$563 towards the youth summer work trip!**

Thank you again for your support!



Sunday School Unit

For the final weeks of Sunday School, the children will be exploring Psalms

**Contact Melanie Jones
for information.**

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

All Worship Sunday

Sunday, April 2nd and 9th, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Services



All worship Sundays mean children remain in worship for the entire service as we celebrate the sacrament of Communion together. Look for the blue cart with worship bags for children, filled with fun things to keep them engaged during worship!

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## **Children's Worship**

**April 9, 16, 23 and 30**

**during the 11:00 a.m. worship service**

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

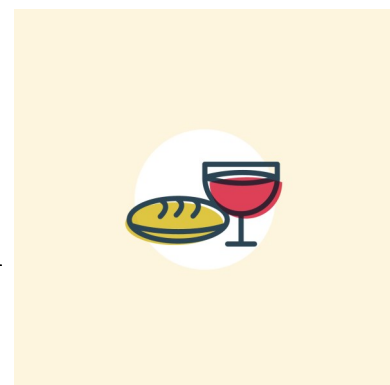
worship service with their families and be dismissed to follow our volunteer leader to

Room 12 after the Moment For All Ages.

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Children's Sunday school

Sunday mornings 9:45-10:45 a.m., Room 12



There will be no Sunday school on Easter Sunday, April 9

The season of Lent has arrived, and with it the chance to dive into the life of Jesus and be reminded of what Jesus taught about living with love in our world. We'll spend six weeks learning through art, science, stories and more.

Sunday school class is open for children in grades K-6. Contact Melanie Jones with questions about Sunday school and the fun we have together!

Why Camp?



Transformed Lives

At camp, young people have the mental room to consider some of the most important issues of life. This break from the craziness of their regular routine allows campers to discover the truth that God loves them and has an amazing plan for their lives.

Nature & Adventure

Campers explore nature, participate in new adventures and test their limits in a healthy environment surrounded by the grandeur of God's creation.

Temporary Community

In a setting separate from their daily routine, with an opportunity to shed the expectations and pressures of others, campers are freed up to be themselves, to live above artificial limitations and blossom into who they were created to be.

Lifelong Friendships

Good friends who exert positive peer pressure can make all the difference in a kid's life. Friendships with caring adults and other campers, forged through shared experience and the compressed time at camp, can last a lifetime.

Adult Mentors

According to researchers, kids spend on average 3.5 minutes in meaningful conversation with their parents each week. At camp, caring adults, counselors and mentors come alongside campers, helping them think through decisions and experiences in a way that will prepare them for their future. Many campers point back to a positive role model they met at camp as one who helped shape the direction of their lives.

Gretna Glen is accredited by the American Camp Association

www.gretnaglen.org

Upcoming Events

Children's Spring Blast

March 31st-April 1st

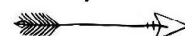
Friday 7pm-Saturday 7pm



Confirmation Retreat

Friday, April 21st-Sunday, April 23rd

Registration is by confirmation class



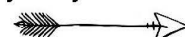
Spring Work Day

Saturday, April 22nd 9:00-5:00



10th Annual Gretna Gritty

Saturday, May 13th 8:00-12:00



Open House

Saturday, May 20th 10:00-4:00



S'mores & Tours

Sunday, June 4th 1:00-4:00



Summer Camp In Session

8 weeks-Day & Overnight starting June 19th

www.gretnaglen.org

Want to join our team?

Paid Summer Staff

We are hiring day and overnight camp counselors, along with lifeguards, kitchen, and program team members. Day Camp counselors' pay is \$350 per week & Overnight Staff is \$400 per week. Hourly positions are also available. Check out our website for more details.

Summer Volunteers

Summer camps were built by volunteers and are still a massive part of our program. This year we are looking for 100 volunteers to serve alongside our team to provide a wonderful experience for our campers. Part-week and full-week volunteers are welcome. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Non-Summer Volunteers

Not a day goes by that we couldn't use some volunteer help. Hosea Latshaw leads a team of maintenance-focused volunteers weekly at Gretna Glen. We are looking for 100 volunteers for our Gretna Gritty fundraiser to help with this event. If you are interested in helping at Gretna Glen, please email Apryl at amiller@gretnaglen.org

SPRING FLING

Senior Adult Day at Gretna Glen



Tuesday, May 16, 2023
9:30am-3:00pm

Spring Fling is planned just for adults, with exceptional programs, snacks, a hot lunch, and an opportunity to stroll around camp to observe nature, birds, or spring wildflowers! Join us for a spring day filled with fun activities and sharing laughter with friends.

Cost is \$25.00 per person
Payment will be due the day of the event

**To Register please call our office at 717-273-6525 or
Send us an email at camp@gretnaglen.org**

Save the Date: Autumn Leaves – Tuesday, October 17th

Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center
87 Old Mine Road Lebanon, PA 17042



Open Grow Serve



OUR MONTHLY SHOUT OUTS!

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:

Heather Ditzel for delivering and setting up the beautiful Easter Flowers.

Michael Duvall, Virgil Brown, and Dave Talley for replacing sanctuary ceiling lights and projector components.

The Creating Spaces Team for cleaning the chancel area and bringing spring inside the church.

Joan Leaman and her team of volunteers who are now feeding over 140 families each week. If you are interested in joining the team, just let Joan know of your interest!

Steve May for all the "behind the scenes" tech he cares for each week.

Church and CMO families who donated dozens of shoes and socks to help our neighbors in need.



BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL



04/01 Joyce Bischoff

04/02 Alan Bratton

04/04 Sue Curtis

04/08 Payton Ingiosi

04/10 Patrick Wiwel

04/11 Mildred
Chambers

04/14 Janet Phillips

04/15 Virgil Brown

04/16 Maggie Stuhrke

04/17 Charlie Bechtel



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

04/17 Bob Sweet

04/17 Kathy Wiwel

04/18 Thomas
Hoover

04/18 Sue Hutton

04/19 Roxanne
Shane

04/23 Helen Carlin

04/26 Roger Bates

04/30 John McGinley

04/30 April Spencer



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

300 North Guernsey Road, West Grove, Pa. 19390

610-869-9334 office@westgroveumc.org

www.westgroveumc.org



2023

~ 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

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Staff

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

Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

Melanie Jones—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

OPEN—Handbell Choir Director

Abbie Gruscavage—Children's Morning Out Director

cmo@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant

Maira Tena—Sexton

sexton@westgroveumc.org

Christ Servant Ministers

Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com

Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

Board and Committee Leadership

Val Kapp-Benner - Interim Administrative Council Chair

Kim O'Neil - Trustee Chair

OPEN - Finance Chair

Valerie Kapp-Benner - Treasurer

Janice Bowers - Interim Financial Secretary

Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Chair

Michael Duvall—Tech Team Leader

Melanie Hartley - Christian Education

Melanie Jones - Children's Ministry Team Contact

Valerie Kapp-Benner - Missions Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley - Delegate to Annual Conference

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