



# The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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September 2023

DON'T WORRY  
..... about .....  
== ANYTHING ==  
PRAY  
>>> about <<<  
EVERYTHING

*"Be strong. Take courage.... God is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you. Don't be intimidated. Don't worry." MSG "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." NRSV (Deut. 31:8) So said Moses to Joshua as he handed over the responsibility for leading God's people.*

As the summer ends and we begin another season, we know that there will be many challenges and opportunities for us as individuals and as a fellowship in Christ. As we shared in worship on August 27, we need to first commit ourselves to truly engaging with God first in a very personal relationship, as Moses did, as he faced some overwhelming circumstances. Like Moses, when God calls us into action we might reply and ask, "It's just me! Why me?" Moses was a hot head, a murderer, and had trouble speaking, he likely stammered or stuttered. Like him, even with all

of our faults, God calls us to deepen our relationship and be fully engaged with Him. When we do incredible things happen. Such is the witness of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. It is not easy; it can be extremely challenging, yet it is life's greatest treasure and sets the foundation for all of our relationships, especially with the people we love.

## **Individuals In Fellowship**

A traditional point of view in our faith has been to focus on the individual's relationship and journey; we pray every individual, like those saints and disciples of Jesus, has a very personal, growing relationship with God. As individuals we must take responsibility for our relationship with God, our lives, and how we share them. At the same time, we know we are all interconnected with each other, and as the world gets 'smaller,' our lives are intertwined with people we may have never met or know. We add to these dynamics how history and what has happened long before we were born, still influence us today. Remember the Bible tells us our lives will impact four generations in the future and we can then understand we are influenced by four generation in the past.

Many years ago, when I was in college, when a person sought counseling and guidance, the focus was most exclusively on the person, the individual who may have issues. The same was

true in the church. An assessment and diagnosis was conducted. In the 1980's some additional complexities were noted, and system theories were developed, formalized, and shared in ways that brought greater understanding and wisdom. Many people were so strongly influenced by their families and the groups they took part in., that it kept them from growing or from being healthy as individuals. While we are still personally responsible for our lives and relationships, it is often the case that the family, group, fellowship, community, or nation that also needs help in healing and becoming whole. (Remember Jesus in Matthew 12:46-50.) We can embrace and take part in the transformation God's creativity in Jesus and the Holy Spirit are bringing to creation.

### **Not Either-Or, Interweaving It All**

Many people seem to want to polarize various perspectives, forcing a choice between two sides, an either, or situation, when creation and especially humanity is so much more. We need to integrate various experiences and points of view and the grace of God makes it possible. I've shared that Bishop Peter Weaver often taught us that one cannot be saved, a Christian with a personal relationship with God in Christ, without caring for and responding to injustice; and one can do little to transform and care for the injustices in the world without a close personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bible is full of God's response to both dynamics, leading us to develop and grow in our faith, learning how to trust God even more as we go forward. "It is the Lord who goes before us! Do not be dismayed!"

Like Moses, we may be afraid of consummating the covenant God has offered and invited us into, afraid of being consumed, of losing ourselves. When we respond and take part, we actually find our true identity. We are, after all, made in God's image. When we accept Christ, we are empowered to make time to listen and empathize. We need not fear encounters with other people, for God has promised to be with us; Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth will be right with us. There is no promise fulfilling our calling will be easy; the promise is in the fulfillment of grace and love.

As we approach a new season of learning, and growing , maturing in our relationships with God and each other, I pray we live in the courage God provides, knowing His presence with us at each step. Please don't be afraid of seeking the truth, nor of speaking up, sharing your experiences, and engaging to learn more. Or it may be better said, let God provide the courage. So much of what we know is incomplete. May we seek God's will often, especially with others who are faithful. While God is so vastly beyond our full understanding and our control, God has revealed Himself to us and works to do so every day. Salvation and our relationship with God never stop growing. It is life's greatest challenge and blessing. Rejoin us in worship, Sunday School, Bible studies, Grief Share, the Color of Compromise, music, and mission. Pray for all who have contact with our fellowship, and may we all be prepared to freely share the grace.





# Worship in September at West Grove UMC

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



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

## **Sunday, September 3 – Communion Sunday**



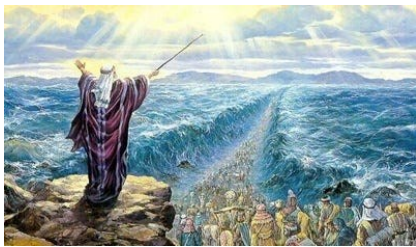
We have several ministries coming to fruition in the next month or two; one is offering a fellowship group for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one in recent years. It is called Grief Share. We will also offer a study on how the Christians churches in America related and responded to slavery, in both bad and good ways; the study will be facilitated by Mel Leaman and Peter Mullen. These two ministries will influence our worship in August. We continue with Sunday school fellowship, including one for adults with children, and a traditional group, meeting in the library. We expect the group in the conference room and the men's group to start again in September.

## **Sunday, September 10, 2023—RALLY DAY**

Rally Day is a time for us to experience the blessings of being back together after a summer of vacations and recreation. It's a joy to be together in Christ as we begin a new season. We'll lift up our Bible school theme: "So let us strive for the things that bring peace and build each other up." (Romans 14:19) And we'll share the practical ways Jesus has called us to share friendships and relationships of all kinds, modelled after the one God offers us: direct and personal, willing to communicate graciously as we hear the scripture from Matthew 18:15-20 Vision of Christ: talk directly with each other, make a covenant to do so, as we are careful and discerning our use of words, always seeking to share grace.



## **Sunday, September 17**



God is with us always and ready to lead our hearts as we go forward in life. We will hear God's word from Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21, when the Angel of God was leading them into freedom. God takes us out of slavery and into freedom, and God takes the lingering effects of slavery in our hearts and minds out of us. We have so much to be thankful for in the freedoms we share, and want to make the most of them, breaking free from the unhealthy things, dynamics, and people that hold us back and confine us. God is right with us as we focus on

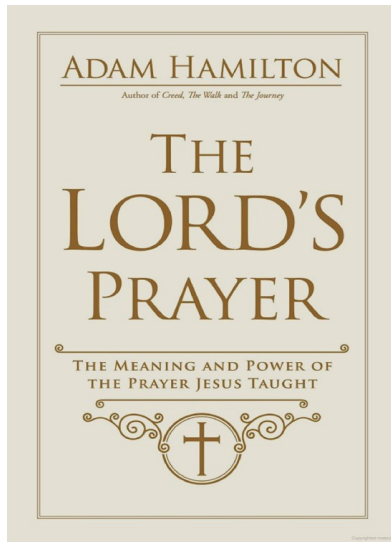
God's presence, we live creatively. We'll likely hear from within our liturgy, Paul's letter in Rom 14:1-12. He encourages us to "Be up and awake!" We can claim the great gifts of freedom when we are alert to God's presence.

## **Sunday, September 24**

In Exodus 16:2-15, the people who have been set free from slavery and genocide are complaining about freedom's responsibilities. God is always listening, and seeks to help us, as God invites us to come near to God, let go of our fears. Through these passages we take into our hearts and minds additional scriptures, that make it clear how vital it is to be in strong, open, authentic fellowship together in Christ. We'll hear assuring words within our liturgy from Philippians 1:21-30, "Persevere in faith in Christ," for then we all can grow in our efforts to mature in God's love; the courage & unity provide great strength for us all. The vision of faith and fellowship in Matthew 20:1-16 can also lead us to live by grace to be inclusive and work and live together humbly.







## NEW FAITHLINKS CLASS!

### “THE LORD’S PRAYER”

The Faith Links class will begin a new study on Sunday, September 10th, at 9:45am. We will be studying “The Lord’s Prayer”( part of Adam Hamilton’s Bible study curriculum).” In this study he reflects on the deeper meaning and power behind the prayer Jesus taught, how it shapes our lives as we follow Him, and in turn, change the world.” This is a walk-in class and we will begin with a short video followed by discussion. Hope you will join us for this exciting new study! (Any questions please contact Caryl Stuhrke at (302) 239-1743).

## LEARNING FROM THE PRAYERS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”

In the Old Testament prayer was prominent in the lives of OT Saints, and prayer built their relationship with God. If prayer was so important to these people and having value in their lives, then the practice and habit of prayer ought to set a whole new direction for each of us and for the church, the body of believers.

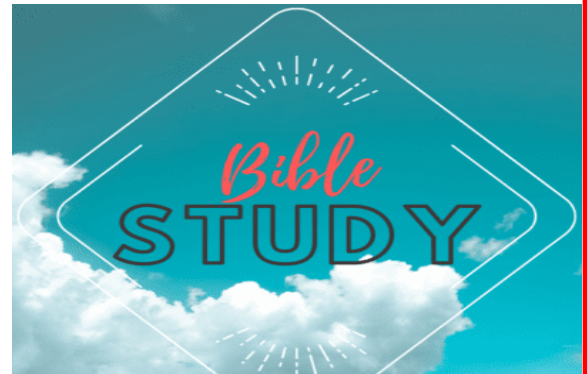
We have heard it said that nothing will be accomplished without prayer.

And it is also true that if we do not pray, we will achieve nothing of lasting value.

In our Bible Study entitled “Learning From The Prayers Of The Old Testament”, we will study the prayers of a few of the Hebrew Saints, review the situation that initiated the prayer, delve into the prayer, and see how that prayer will help us in our prayer life.

Come join us on Mondays, beginning September 11th at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, as we look at the scriptural prayers of Abraham, Moses, Hannah, David, Solomon, Jonah, and others.

Pastor Jim



Is there someone who would like a visit? A joy of ministry is offering communion and times for fellowship and prayer, and I look forward to offering it as I have throughout the time I have shared in ministry. Please give me a call if you or someone you know that would

like me to visit. 484.720.8626 [pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)

## **“Christians with Kids” Begins Sept. 10 with Jesus' Parables!**

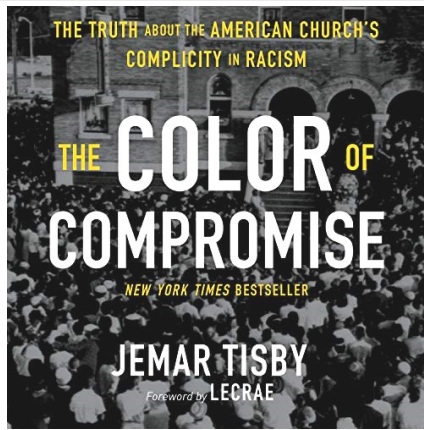


Want to feel more confident about answering your child's questions about faith and scripture? Feeling pressed to make time for your own spiritual well-being and growth? Join us each week (for the next six weeks), as we have an adult discussion about the parable your children are studying that week in Sunday School. Contact Julie Anderman, facilitator, with questions or ideas: [jwanderman111@gmail.com](mailto:jwanderman111@gmail.com) or 484.720.8626. No Bible knowledge necessary. Come when you can. We'll be looking for you!

**You're Invited!**

### **Laura Stewart, mother of two comments on her experience:**

I want to invite you to a new Sunday School group that has made a positive impact on me as a parent. We all know parenting is not easy, and sometimes we can feel lonely in raising our children. Add in trying to raise them in faith, and the battle is all uphill. Myself and other parents have begun a class where we connect, accept, and value each other as parents in faith, but also use God's Word as a guiding light to help us navigate this rewarding, yet scary, path we call parenting. When Julie first asked me to join her and other parents, I had some reservations. I was worried that it would shine a spotlight on how bad I was doing as a parent and leave room for judgment from other parents if my kids couldn't recite the Bible word for word. Thankfully God told me to cast my fears aside and take the leap, and I have never felt more connected, accepted, and valued as a parent and as a Child of God. As a group, we use each other as sounding boards, pray, and praise our journey in parenthood. We use the Bible as a guide in our discussion and uncover how to raise our kiddos in faith in today's world. Now, I should warn you, this class is in no way a "How to" for parenting. So, if you thought we somehow had the answers to everything, I hate to disappoint! There is no "you did that wrong" or "here is a gold sticker for making the right choice." Instead, we have created a judgment-free zone where we can rejoice with, and confide in, fellow parents who have a similar goal in mind; being Christians with Kids.



## **Reckoning with the Cotton Gin and Sin:** **Keeping September 9<sup>th</sup> in Mind** by Rev. Dr Mel Leaman and Peter Mullen

My initial post-college employment was as a Junior High history teacher. I taught what I had learned. So, in 1972 **I was able to tell my students** how the invention of the cotton gin in 1793 expanded the demand for cotton in North America and globally. Cotton comprised just 7% of our exports in 1800, but by 1860 that increased to 58%. Our country experienced a huge economic boom as Southern states provided the world with 75% of its cotton! **But, what I couldn't tell my students** at that time

because my history books skimmed over this truth was that despite the 1808 ban on foreign slave trade the number of slaves imported as a means of supplying the demand for cotton increased from 900,000 to 4 million in 60 years. What I couldn't tell my students were the horrors that happened to black women, men, and children who now had to pick more cotton to keep up with the pace of production. What I couldn't tell my students was that many slave masters were Christian church goers as were those who built slave ships in the North or filled their pockets with cotton related incomes. I JUST WISH I WOULD HAVE READ BLACK HISTORY WRITTEN BY BLACK PEOPLE!

Well, I've been doing just that and I am hoping you will join me. **Our Scriptures in II Corinthians 5:17-25 call us to be ambassadors of reconciliation.** How can we be ambassadors for reconciliation if we have not reckoned with the realities of our history that have separated us? This is not revisionist history. It is so real our hearts still resist the cleansing power of the cross to remove the stains in our souls (being) that demean our relationships with one another. It will be a bit confronting, I know, but I would like to invite you to join me and my co-facilitator, Peter Mullen as we read and discuss *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the Church's Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby. We will begin our sojourn on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 and do so for eleven consecutive Saturdays. Come as you can. We will view each chapter's summary by the author via zoom on a given day of the week, but if you miss that video viewing simply come 20 minutes early to the Saturday session to view it. Thanks for thinking about this offering and letting me ([melleaman50@gmail.com](mailto:melleaman50@gmail.com)) or Peter Mullen ([psmullen@petermullen.com](mailto:psmullen@petermullen.com)) know if you plan to participate.



The United Methodist Men hold a monthly breakfast at the church. There is time for scripture sharing, some speakers and lots of fellowship. We meet on the **Fourth Saturday of each Month, 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. ~ September 23rd**

More information will be shared as plans are made. All men and boys are invited to attend.

Contact Pastor Jim or Michael Duvall with your questions.





## Our Handbell Choir ~ The Memory Bells

Do you like music? Do you think you'd like to try ringing bells? The Memory Bells will start rehearsing this month. The schedule is still in the works and will be announced soon. Playing bells is a large commitment since the first requirement is that you be present for rehearsals or find a substitute to fill in (we provide a sub list). We play in church the third Sunday of every month, plus a few extra events such as Advent Music Night, Christmas Eve, Easter, and one performance at the Twin Pines Nursing Home. But we can guarantee that it is a very rewarding commitment, in addition to a lot of fellowship and friendship.

Sound interesting? Please contact Peggy Watkins or any handbell member to find out more! Many bell-essings to you!

## YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR OR PRAISEWORKS!

Our Chancel Choir is excited to begin a new season and would like to invite you to join us! Rehearsal is on Thursdays, at 6:45 p.m. in the choir room. We will sing at the 11:00 a.m. services beginning on September 3. You don't need to be able to read music and certainly don't need to be an expert singer. We gather in fellowship and use whatever gifts we have to sing in worship!

Here are statements from two of our choir members, sharing their feelings about singing in choir:

*"I had always sung as a child and teen but was never in Chorus or musical theater. When I first*



*joined a church choir at age 37, I could not read music at all. I was warmly accepted into the group and learned more and more with every rehearsal, thanks to the encouragement, tolerance, and patience of the seasoned singers who took me under their wings."*

*"Singing reminds me how the Holy Spirit can move among and through us to bring intense differences into harmonic unity. God shows us how each of our gifts are needed to create a beauty that none of us can create individually. Miraculous! Together, a glimpse of heaven, even though we're all flawed humans. I NEED to sing in a choir for my spiritual health!"*

## A message from our Board of Trustees

Our faithful trustees didn't take the summer off! Here is just a quick peek at the work completed over the past few months.

- Replace the exterior CMO door due to rot.
- Add outlets for the CMO directors' office to allow for room setup flexibility.
- Put the canopy on the tent frame for VBS (sadly the entire structure met an untimely end with the Aug 7 storm). That same storm gave us a beautiful rainbow over the church.

- Continue deep cleaning the floors: Kitchen, bathrooms and Narthex have been completed; the sanctuary carpet will be done in the fall.

After nearly two decades, **Fred Sullivan** stepped down in June as a trustee. The trustees would like to take this time to thank Fred for all his work and knowledge. If you are interested in being apart of this incredible group, please reach out to me (Kim O'Neill [Tim-KimONeill@verizon.net](mailto:Tim-KimONeill@verizon.net)) or any of the trustees for more information.



**Sunday, September 17 ~ 5-7 p.m.**

**SAVE THE DATE: THIRD ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL IS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 PM.** RAIN DATE WILL BE SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 PM. Pastor Tim and Julie are looking forward to hosting the THIRD Ice Cream Social this year. Everyone is invited! Of course, there will be lots of syrup and toppings to help enhance the experience. Last year we offered at least 22 flavors, including dairy and gluten-free, and we look forward to sharing most of them again this year too. Feel free to bring toppings to share! Please remember, it is not just about the ice cream, it is all about the fellowship with many great people. Come, bring friends and neighbors and please join us as you are able, and let our hearts melt together.





## **PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN**

—God Watches Over Us As We Journey in Life—

September 2023

September brings changes in the seasons as we look to fall and it's beauty. Fall also begins the new school year. Parents plan for changes in the family, as young students begin to experience the beginning of going to school and parents worry about their children leaving home on a school bus and await their return safely at night. And then there are the parents, who late in August see their young adult children leave home to go away to college and pray for their safety, yearning for the time they come home for a school break. Traveling from home, either daily or for a longer period, affects most of us. So, I encourage you to go on a journey with me as we look together at Psalm 121. This psalm is part of the songs of ascent, Psalms 120–134. These were sung as the people of Israel journeyed through the hills and mountains on their way to Jerusalem to observe the annual festivals.

The theme of this psalm is Gods care of His people. The people journeying to Jerusalem for yearly feasts could face many dangers. Among the more potent threats was that of robbers. Anyone making their way from a distant place to Jerusalem needed to trust God to watch over them as they traveled in groups together. This psalm is composed of four stanzas of two verses each (verses 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8). As the psalmist looked at the mountains in vs. 1-2, <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth”, his thoughts rose above the mountain tops to God, the Creator. He assured himself that his safety came from the Lord, not from the mountain top where others would go to worship, but from God, maker of heaven and earth. The remaining three stanzas tells how God helps us. In vs. 3-4, the psalmist says that God will watch over us wherever we go and whatever we do, <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; <sup>4</sup> indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither

slumber nor sleep.” God will not “slumber nor sleep”. God is with us today, day and night —right now—watching over us and our whole life. The Lord would not allow the psalmist to stumble, nor would God relax His protection. God cannot be taken off guard, or surprised, like someone who falls asleep. In vs. 5-6, we see that God cares for his people as they travel, in this case, by foot during the day, and sleep at night as they made their beds on the ground, “



5 The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; <sup>6</sup> the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.” For God’s care is with us 24/7 through eternity. And vv. 7-8 extends that promise to us, “ <sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; <sup>8</sup> the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” Believers can be confident that God is in control of all that happens, (“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord, Romans 8:37–39).” That God’s awareness and loving care for us and it will extend from now to eternity. How can we summarize this journey for those who travel or are away from home? If we are open to God and prayer, pray for them, place them in the hands of God. Better yet, pray with them, letting them know that God is watching over them as they are away. Speaking of prayer, I encourage you to join us and be part of the new Bible Study beginning September 11, at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, entitled “Learning from the Prayers of the Old Testament”. Pastor Jim.



## **United Methodist Women's Fall Rummage Sale**

**Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM—2 PM**

**Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM—Noon**

**Bring your donations from Sunday, October 1st through  
Thursday, October 5th**

**Saturday special: Fill a Bag for only \$5.00!!**

Left-over items are donated to Mission Santa Maria.

Our United Methodist Women, who sponsor this sale, fund ministries and missions within the church and throughout community with the proceeds from the Rummage Sale. Thank you!

## Retired Active People



## **RAP** **Fall Kick-Off** **Friday, September 8th**

RAP (Retired Active People) will resume our monthly gatherings in September, as we kick-off an exciting year of new programs and end in May 2024 with a potluck luncheon and entertaining music by the Providence Brass Band. We

are so grateful for all of our volunteers that help make our monthly meetings interesting and delicious.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, September 8, 2023 at noon in the church sanctuary. Please join us for fellowship and lots of fun. Bring your bagged lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided. Sara Ann Ramberger will be our program leader for the afternoon. Ray McKay, one of our faithful members will present a program entitled, "Civil War Trivia and Interesting Facts."

The following is a brief outline of our first few programs:

October 13, 2023 – Adam P. Solty, Neff Therapy, will present a few Physical Therapy tips.

November 10, 2023 – Dick Stuhrke will present a Submarine Show and Tell.

December 8, 2023 – Matt Furches, Utah-based Boulder Outdoor Survival School, will present highlights of staying safe in the outdoors. We will also celebrate the holidays with a potluck lunch in December.

Again, thank you to everyone who helps make our gatherings possible. We welcome help with setup and cleanup, if you are able to lend a hand. We hope to see everyone back as we resume our regular monthly schedule, the second Friday of each month at noon, September through May.

Please invite your friends to join us. Everyone is welcome!



## **Berkshire Hathaway** **Realtors Community** **Service Day** **Thursday, October 5th**

The realtors at Berkshire Hathaway contacted the church office to offer their services as a gesture of kindness to the community. If you or someone you know, needs help with chores, contact the church office (610-869-9334) and they will submit your request. The kind

of chores could be yard work, painting (inside or out), minor house repairs, or heavy lifting. Perhaps you have a AC window unit that needs to come out? Is your lawn too much for you to clean the leaves and sticks? Let us know!



# Children's Morning Out and Preschool

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**Happy New School Year!** Things are exciting here in the preschool wing! Our little friends will be back to school starting on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, and we cannot wait! The teachers have been working so hard getting their rooms ready and they look FANTASTIC for the start of the school year! Head to the Preschool wing and take a peek, next time you are at church.

As early childhood educators, we know that our youngest students learn the best through play! We plan and organize our days so that the children can reach their fullest potential as they play and explore their classroom. Preschool gives them the opportunity to learn how to interact, socialize and share with other children and is such an important part of early childhood. That being said, we offer scholarships to some families who might need a little help with the preschool tuition. We would love to provide a quality preschool edu-

cation to all children in our community. If you find yourself with a little extra to give at any point this school year, please consider a donation to our scholarship fund. We, and the children, thank you!

We currently do have a few open spots in some of our classrooms. If you know of a family who is looking for a PreK spot for their child, we would love to be recommended! **We also have limited spots in our Tuesday and Thursday 2- and 3-year-old classes.**

**Lastly, we are looking for a PreK assistant teacher!** Requirements are that they MUST LOVE CHILDREN and be available M-F from 8:45-12:15. If you are thinking "that's me!" as you are reading this, please reach out to me, Abbie Gruscavage!

Thank you! Abbie

## ADOPT A PRESCHOOLER

As you know, our church has a preschool. CMO, Children's Morning Out, was started here shortly after we moved from prospect Avenue over twenty years ago. This type of program is the first opportunity for many children to enter a social world with other children and nurturing adults. The preschool program encourages learning, self expression, independence, and discovery. The opportunities to work together, accomplish tasks, problem solve, and express thoughts and feeling prepare children for the next steps in education.

Research shows children who attend preschool are better prepared to continue their learning in kindergarten and beyond. But did you know that children who have early experience with economic scarcity and insecurity gain more than their advantaged peers? CMO has always welcomed families who need some assistance with the cost of preschool by offering scholarships.

To ensure we can continue to offer scholarships, we are seeking individuals or groups to consider "adopting a preschooler." You will not know who the child is. Privacy demands that the CMO Board



will continue to distribute funds to those who have shown a need. But you can rest assured that your contribution will be used only to give the gift of learning to a child who otherwise may not have the

opportunity.

The amount of the monthly scholarship varies from \$100.00 to \$250.00. The cost varies according to which of the CMO programs the child attends and how many children in the family may be attending. Full tuition starts at \$200.00 a month and can go as high as \$350.00 a month. If you or your group could contribute monthly (any amount), that would be great. But any contribution at any time would also be fully appreciated. Simply make your check out to WGUMC CMO. Put "Scholarship Fund" in the memo. It can be put in the collection plate or given or mailed to the office.

Thank you in advance for helping us continue to offer scholarships so all children can share equally in the benefits of an excellent quality preschool experience.



children  
international®

*Below is a letter to WGUMC from Children's International through whom we sponsor  
A child.*

Dear Sponsor:

I send you greetings on this beautiful day, and I hope you and your family are in good health. Let me tell you that my name is Yahaira Carrillo Cortes. My family and I are in good health, and I want to thank you for choosing me as your sponsored child. Receive a warm welcome from me and Children's International. I'm doing well. I'm in 1st grade. My favorite subjects are Spanish and Biology. I have two sister. The older one is Yaira, and the youngest one is Yariana. I love them a lot. We love going out as family on weekends. We go to the park and have a lot of fun. Goodbye. With love, your sponsored child: Yahaira Carrillo Cortes.



The end of summer marks a new beginning. At Church it is the beginning of new Sunday School classes and Youth programs, as well as new classes for the adults.

It may also mean time to renew clearances (criminal background check and child abuse forms) and look at the new Safe Sanctuaries training video. The new training, "Safe Sanctuaries Vulnerable Adults" will be offered on Zoom Sept. 16 from 9 – 12 Noon. It will go over information for those working with children and youth and add additional information for those working with vulnerable adults. You can register online at **EPAUMC.org**.

If you are unable to do the Zoom on Sept. 16, you could review or look for the first time at the shorter program taped last November. It does not include any information about Vulnerable adults. You can access that video by going to **EPAUMC.org**. Click on Resources and search for "Spotlight." Sign in or create a sign in if you do not have one. Then click on "Safe Sanctuaries Training" November 2022.

This website is a great resource as it can also streamline the renewing of clearances. Again, you go to **EPAUMC.org**. Click on Resources, then Safe Sanctuaries, then Selection and Screening. Choose Criminal Record Check or Child Abuse Clearance and you will be directed to the form you need to fill out.

It is important that everyone who volunteers with children or youth be aware of expectations and procedures needed to keep our children and youth safe. If you have any questions, contact Fran Miller, [jmille8698@verizon.net](mailto:jmille8698@verizon.net) or call me at 484-614-6627.



## BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYERS

### A Prayer for Students

Lord, we lift hearts grateful for gifts of curiosity and imagination. Fill the minds of your children with a quest to understand your world, and bless their hearts with the security of knowing you are present whether the learning is joyful, hard, lonely, or full of friendship. Wherever they go, you are there. Amen.



### A Prayer for Teachers

God, thank you for calling some to be teachers and providing them the gifts and training to lead others on a lifelong path of learning. Instill patience in hurried moments, insight to find the best strategies, and stamina that sustains when weariness threatens. Amen.

### A Prayer for Parents

Precious Lord, we send our precious children into the world of learning, but they are never far from you. May the hearts of all at home be knit tightly together in a web of support and encouragement for healthy learning habits so we may share healthy life adventures wherever you lead. Amen.

### A Prayer for All Who Serve

Our God, some are students, some are teachers, some are parents, but many more serve and support learners of all ages. Be present in the offices, buses, classrooms, and playgrounds of all who touch the lives of students. Give them words of encouragement and affirmation of the lasting value of the work they do each day. Amen.

*(This article is an excerpt from the Church Health Reader Summer 2018: Mindfulness and Meditation issue.)*





## Food Pantry

### West Grove UMC Food Pantry

#### Weekly Hours:

**Wednesdays: 5:00—6:30 PM**

**Thursdays: 1:00—2:00 PM**

**Our Church Food Bank**

**Depends on You!**

WGUMC's Food Pantry serves **over 100 families every week**. This translates into about 450-500 individuals. We are blessed to be able to support our neighbor's facing food and insecurity. It is your generous donations that help us to do that. We appreciate food donations which can be left in the shopping cart outside the lobby doors, as well as monetary donations. Surplus from your vegetable gardens are also appreciated. For donated items that need to be refrigerated, please bring them to the church weekdays during the hours of 9 AM to 2 PM when the church office is open.

The most needed items currently are:

Corn tortillas,  
Canned corn,  
Cooking oil  
Bags of dried beans,  
Pasta,  
Ramen noodles  
Canned diced tomatoes,  
Crackers,  
Granola bars

Any donation is a blessing to those in need.

Thank You!

If you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities, please contact Joan Leaman ([jmleaman@comcast.net](mailto:jmleaman@comcast.net))

### 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](http://www.westgroveumc.org)**



People who love diverse, soul-stirring, contemporary Christian music and outdoor fellowship will return to Carson Simpson Farm Christian Camp in Hatboro (near Willow Grove) on Saturday, Sept. 23, 12:00-6:00 PM, for an encore of last year's successful Worship Fest. They will come together to glorify God through this collaborative production by Carson Simpson and Ripe Creatives, a consortium of young, diverse, talented musical, spoken-word and visual artists. (Rain date is October 7<sup>th</sup>.)

Churches and local Christian organizations will have representatives and displays onsite to share their ministries. Kids will have fun activities to enjoy in the Kids Zone. Worship Fest is a free community event open to everyone. Donations are welcome to help defray the operational costs, but they are not required for participation. Come celebrate creative expression, human connection and "Unity through Worship," is the Worship Fest theme. [Learn more and register for free.](#)



## 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPECIAL SESSION

September 9 | 9 AM - 12:30 PM



Have a question about the UMC, it's worship (what is Pentecost?), beliefs ((what is repentance?), the sacraments (what do I need to know about baptism?), or the UMC in general (are all Methodist churches part of UMC?). There is a place you can go to get the answers:



## BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Hannah McCumming	9/1
Rosemary MacCoun	9/1
Owen Jones	9/3
Katie Beauchamp	9/3
Ellie Capuano	9/4
Dylan Farr	9/7
Chris Curtis	9/8
Tim Anderman	9/8
Fran Miller	9/9
Victoria Owens	9/10
Keith Schneider	9/11
William Ipock	9/11
Timothy Ipock	9/11
Ruth Kuch	9/14
Kim Smith	9/18



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

Carol Barrett	9/18
Matt Simonds	9/19
Bob Phillips	9/19
Bob Hughes	9/21
Christy Robinson	9/22
Rogelio Herrera	9/23
Gary Spencer	9/24
John Carmichael	9/24
Mike Stewart	9/24
Shaun Smith	9/24
Jack Krohn, IV	9/25
Heather Ditzel	9/26
Joyce Smith	9/28
Steve May	9/28
Lindsay Reisinger	9/28



**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)

**Hello,  
September!  
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](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 Jones—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)

OPEN—Handbell Choir Director

Abbie Gruscavage—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**

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

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