



West Grove United Methodist Church

OPEN • GROW • SERVE

Preaching today: Rev. Janice L. Bowers
300 North Guernsey Road
West Grove, PA 19390
www.westgroveumc.org
610-869-9334



We Love One Another
HOW SHALL WE LOVE WORSHIP SERIES

May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday of Easter

11:00 AM. WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME AND GREETING

Pastor Janice

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor Janice

PRELUDE

“Gently”

Memory Bells
Arranged by Kenneth Loiacono

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Carol McGinley

Easter people, Jesus chose you and calls you friend!

We abide in Christ because Christ abides in us.

Jesus made a home among us to show us how to love.

We abide in Love because Love abides in us.

Jesus invites us in and beckons us to come to the Table to know the joy that comes when we love one another

the way God loves us.

We abide in Joy because Joy abides with us.

Easter people, Jesus welcomes you home!

We come to make our home with God and one another, bound together by Love and enlivened by Joy.

Amen.

***HYMN**

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Memory Bells/Flute: Lavenia Civitella
Arranged by James D. Kimball

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor Janice

MORNING PRAYER (In Unison)

Carol McGinley

God of Love, let your Holy Spirit come upon us—into our hearts, into our minds, and into our souls. Let your presence speak within us—in the languages we speak, in the ways we live and have our being. For we long to hear you, Gracious One, and to understand. We pray that you would abide in us, that we may abide in you, this day and all days. Amen

MOMENTS FOR ALL AGES

Xavier Feliciano

(The children may exit the service to Room 12 following Moments for all ages))

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING (pg. 5)

Acts 10:44-48

Carol McGinley

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON (pg. 5)

1 John 5:1-6

Carol McGinley

***GOSPEL LESSON** (pg. 5)

John 15:9-17

Pastor Janice

This is the Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| ANTHEM: | “What Love Demands” | Chancel Choir Words and Music by Mark Hayes |
| MESSAGE: | “We Love One Another” | Pastor Janice |
| *HYMN OF RESPONSE: | “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” | UMH No. 158 |
| MOMENT OF IMPACT: | Youth Ministries | Xavier Feliciano |
| AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: | | Pastor Jim |
| CONFESSION OF SINS: | | Pastor Jim |
| HOLY COMMUNION: | | Pastor Janice & Pastor Jim |
| RECEIVING THE BREAD AND CUP: | | |
| HYMN: (During Communion) | “I Come with Joy” | UMH #617 |
| OPENING PASTORAL PRAYER: | | Pastor Jim |
| MOMENT OF SILENCE: | for those things on our hearts, and not spoken out loud. | |
| CLOSING PASTORAL PRAYER: | | Pastor Jim |
| INVITATION TO THE OFFERING: | | Pastor Jim |
| OFFERTORY: | “Children of the Heavenly Father” | UMH No. 141 Memory Bells |
| OFFERTORY PRAYER: | | Pastor Jim |
| *CLOSING SONG: | “Shout to the Lord” | TFWS #2074 |
| BENEDICTION: | Pastor Janice Go in peace to love and serve as children of God. | |
| POSTLUDE: | | Betsy Smith |

*** STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.**

Please join us in the Lobby/Narthex for a time of fellowship.

Please stand as you are able* **BOLD PRINT = SAY IN UNISON.

7:30 AM. WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME AND GREETING

Pastor Janice

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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the way God loves us.

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Pastor Janice

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Pastor Janice

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*GOSPEL LESSON (pg. 5) John 15:9-17

Pastor Janice

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MESSAGE

“We Love One Another”

Pastor Janice

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

CONFESSIONS OF SINS

Pastor Janice

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Janice

RECEIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Pastor Janice

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Janice

MOMENT OF SILENCE for those things on our hearts, and not spoken out loud.

CLOSING PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Janice

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Janice

*** STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 JOHN 5:1-6

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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 God's name.

Church Office: 610-869-9334

Our Website: www.westgroveumc.org Email us at info@westgroveumc.org

WELCOME, ONE AND ALL!

Faith, hope and love are gifts from God. May you find them here. If you have come as a guest, we hope that you'll leave as a friend and pray you'll be nourished in faith as you hear God's message for you today. Please honor us by signing the Friendship Pad and we encourage you to join us again. For those who need them, there are hearing aids available at the sound booth. Please feel free to ask for them.

CHURCH ACCESS: If you are a leader of a group that meets regularly at WGUMC and need access to the church (a key) please contact the church office at 610-869-9334 or email April at office@westgroveumc.org

WGUM CHURCH BONFIRE: Come one, come all to a WGUMC Bonfire on May 10th, from 6—8 pm. Come enjoy the music, smores, BBQ and more. Hosted by Xavier and our Youth Group.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S TEA: You are invited to join us for an afternoon tea and light desserts on Sunday, May 19th, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the church lobby and sanctuary. Following a time of refreshments and fellowship, we are excited to welcome an amazing storyteller, Diane Albertson. Diane will entertain us with a whimsical story that incorporates various Mother Goose characters, along with the stories of Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachael, Rahab and Mary. All women of the church, your family, friends and loved ones are invited for an enjoyable afternoon.



RAP: Join us on Friday, May 10th, at noon in the church sanctuary as we gather for a potluck luncheon to celebrate the end of this program year. We are excited to welcome back the Providence Brass Band to entertain us with their musical talents. Bring your favorite luncheon dish to share with others. Desserts and beverages will be provided. We will resume our RAP meetings the second Friday each month from September through May.

Retired Active People



HEALING RACISM: Join us: Wednesday, May 8th from 6:30-8:00 pm. in the sanctuary to share some dessert and plan for the future studies and actions for "Healing Racism: Becoming the Beloved Community Group." All are welcome! Contact Peter Mullen at psmullen@petermullen.com or Mel Leaman at melleaman50@gmail.com with any questions.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Round up your kids and grand kids and get ready to dive into the fun from July 15th-19th. Call Xavier for all the details at 610-612-7377, or email him at Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org, or call the church office at 610-869-9334, or email us at office@westgroveumc.org.

Key Decisions Made at General Conference

Regionalization: This seeks to create a more contextual church by creating the U.S. and each Central Conference across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines into regions where the churches in those regions will shape their ministry contextually. The new regions are: US, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

While this passed at the General Conference, because this is a constitutional amendment, ratification will require a $\frac{2}{3}$ aggregate vote of every Annual Conference. This process will most likely take two years. It is not clear yet whether the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference will vote on this in our May 21-23 Annual Conference or if it will be held off until 2025.

There were concerns about the unfortunate inadequate representation from central conferences due to travel and visa challenges. The amendment would have passed even if all absent delegates had opposed it.

Ban on Gay Clergy Repealed: On April 23rd through May 3rd, 2024, after prayerful and thoughtful conversation in legislative committees, The General Conference (the highest legislative body of The United Methodist Church) deepened and furthered the church's ministry with all people including the LGBTQ+ community. Many of the restrictions date back to action by the General Conference in the early 1980's. The following are the actions taken by this General Conference.

- * Removed the denomination's ban on the ordination of clergy who are "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." This will take effect on May 3rd, 2024 (at the close of the postponed 2020 General Conference).
- * Clarified churches will not be compelled to receive a gay pastor.
- * Permits pastors and local churches to make decisions on conducting same gender weddings.
- * The Council of Bishops are to be inclusive of gender, race, ethnicity, age, people with disabilities, sexual orientation and economic condition in naming representatives to ecumenical organizations.
- * Eliminated the ban on funding the promotion of ministry with and by LGBTQ+ persons.

MEET WITH US FOR AN OPEN DISCUSSION ON THESE DECISIONS

We will be meeting as a congregation on Friday, May 17th to review Annual Conference legislation that we need your input on before attending May 21st-23rd. We can also discuss questions you may have around the General Conference. Our delegates are Susan Paisley and Cindy Haley. We will be joined by New London UMC who will independently decide on how their congregation will vote. Their lay delegate is Stewart Gantt, CLM.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY



Prayer Requests: Please do not leave prayer requests on the prayer chain email. It is not monitored.

Email **Susan Paisley** at sbrintonpais1@verizon.net or call 610-529-8699. Or email: **April Spencer** at office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334.

Your request will be shared with the prayer chain, and if you would like, it will be noted below in the bulletin Prayer List. Requests will remain on the prayer chain for 4 weeks unless otherwise requested or updated.

Do YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEED PRAYER?

IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Bob Beck, Linda Shiplet
Renee Bergstrom
Chris Bruno
Sandee C (Jim Mundell)
Family of Dan DePaul (Jackson)
Bill Fili, Jr. (Bratton)
Donna Fackler
Richard Heacock
Brody Howard, Nancy & Phil Howard
Michele Johnson (Spencer)
Tom Kuch (Kuchs)
Joyce Lewis
The Family of Len Marten (K. Smith)

Jay Miller, Fran Miller
The Family of Karen Moore
Tim Mullen
Betty Mundell
Vivian Paisley
The Family of Linda Myers, Betsy Smith
Sam Reyburn (Shiplet)
Steve Scheufele (Kuch's)
Levi Schrum (Carmichael)
Mark Sharrat (P. Mullen)
Connie & Jobe Simcox
Linda Shiplet
Jeannie Sullivan
Heidi Strebel, (Edel Mullen)
Josephine Tena
Jill Williams (Fran Miller)
Kay Yates



Nathaniel Howard,
Philippines
(Wayne & Pam)
Brian Kubo—Washington
(Mullen)
Chris Weidman—Idaho
(Miller)
Dalton Wolfe-U.S. Marine
Corps
Drew Zumpino—USA
(Beauchamp)

Prayer Requests or Prayer Notes:

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY ON SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday Morning Servants

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sound Booth : | Aiden Steltzer |
| Projection: | Kaiti Beauchamp |
| Officiating: | Rev. Janice Bowers & Rev. Jim Mundell |
| Music Director: | Betsy Smith |
| Memory Bells Director: | Lavenia Civitella |
| Moment For All Ages/Youth Director: | Xavier Feliciano |

| | <u>Today: 05/05/24</u> | <u>Next Week: 05/12/24</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nursery Aide: | Open / Open | Open / Open |
| Roamers | Priscilla Barkman | Paulette Bryan |
| Counters: | Dick & Caryl Sturhke | Joan Leaman & Paulette Bryan |
| Lay Reader: | Carol McGinley | Susan Paisley |
| Ushers: | Tom & Cindy Hoover | Dick Sturhke & Joan Saller |
| Greeter: | Esther Culbertson | Nancy & Scott Renk-Wise |

Would you like to be a Sunday Morning Servant?

We would welcome your participation as an usher, greeter, lay reader, acolyte (children grade 3 and above), nursery attendant, Children's Worship leader, or Sunday School teacher.

If you have an interest in serving in any capacity on Sunday mornings, please contact April Spencer in the church office at 610-869-9334 or office@westgroveumc.org for more information.

THIS WEEK: May 5 through May 12, 2024

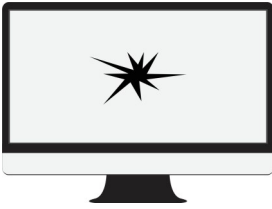
Hours for the Church Office: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
The office is also open before and after the posted times. Call April for an appointment.
(office@westgroveumc.org or 610-869-9334)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

| | | |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday: | 7:30 am. | Worship Service |
| | 9:45—10:45 am. | Sunday School for all ages |
| | 11:00 am. | Worship Service |
| Monday: | 9:00 am.—12:00 pm. | CMO (Rms. 9,13,14,15,16 & Sanctuary) |
| | 12:00—1:00 pm. | CMO Lunch Bunch |
| | 6:00—7:00 pm. | Girl Scout Trp. #41043 (Rms, 8 & 10) |
| Tuesday: | 9:00 am. —12:00 pm. | CMO (Rms. 9, 3,14,15,16 & Sanctuary) |
| | 6:00—7:30 pm. | Girl Scout Trp. #4189 (Rms. 8 & 10) |
| | 6:30—8:00 pm. | Trustees Meeting |
| Wednesday: | 9:00 am.—12:00 pm. | CMO (Rms. 9,13,14,15,16 & Sanctuary) |
| | 5:00—6:00 pm. | Food Pantry |
| | 6:00—8:30 pm. | Healing Racism (Sanctuary) |
| Thursday: | 9:00 am.—12:00 pm. | CMO (Rms. 9,13,14,15,16) |
| | 11:00 am.—1:00 pm. | Trike-A-Thon (Church Parking Lot) |
| | 1:00—2:00 pm. | Food Pantry |
| | 4:30—6:00 pm. | Memory Bells (Sanctuary) |
| | 5:45 pm.—7:30 pm. | Girl Scouts Trp. # 4251 (Rms. 8 & 10) |
| | 6:45 pm.—8:00 pm. | Choir Rehearsal (Rm. #6) |
| Friday: | 9:00 am.—12:00 pm. | CMO (Rms. 9,13,14,15,16) |
| | 11:00 am.—1:00 pm. | CMO Trike-A-Thon (Church Parking Lot) |
| | Noon —3:00 pm. | RAP (Sanctuary, Kitchen) |
| Saturday: | 10:00 am.-11:30 am. | Daily Reflections (Rm. # 8- 10) |

Seventh Sunday of Easter

| | | |
|---------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday: | 7:30 am. | Worship Service |
| | 9:45—10:45 am. | Sunday School for all Ages |
| | 11:00 am. | Worship Service |



Please forgive our blank monitors in the narthex as we are
Working on updating their information.

***God's Faithfulness ~
Your Stewardship***

*It is your tithes, offerings, and
gifts that impact and change
lives for Christ!*

Report from April 28, 2024

General Offering: \$5,048.00

Building Maintenance Fund: \$120.00

Attendance:

7:30: 7 & 11:00: 56

Food Pantry: 101 families on 5/1 & 5/2

Food donations are appreciated.

* * * **SERMON NOTES** * * *