The Wesleyan Star
NOVEMBER 2026

West Grove
United Methodist Church
Pastor DongJin (DJ) Choi

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

Sowing, Reaping, and Giving Thanks

Dear West Grove Church Family in Christ,

Before we know it, we have reached the end of the year and the season of Thanksgiving. It is easy to feel rushed at this time of year with holiday preparations. But God invites us to pause before racing into the new year and to look back. Gratitude belongs to those who stop and remember the road they have traveled.

First, give thanks.

"Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18) does not mean everything was good. It is an invitation to confess that both the good days and the hard days were held in God's hands. Our church has been through a great deal this year. We asked for direction amid changes in our denomination, and we renewed our worship space. We also transitioned our church's administrative structure into a single board, the **Vision Team**. New families have settled in among us, and we have continued to worship and pray together face to face. Looking back, we have come this far by grace, not by our own strength. Take time to recall what you have received from God this year, and say thank you out loud.

Second, look honestly at what you have sown and reaped.

Scripture says, "Whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). What seeds did you plant this year? Did you plant love and patience in your family, or irritation and indifference? Did you plant time with God, or excuses about being too busy? Did you plant forgiveness, or let hurt and resentment grow? The fruit shows us the seed. Give thanks for the joyful fruit, and in the face of bitter fruit, lay it honestly before God rather than making excuses. Repentance begins there. And do not forget the promise of Psalm 126 that those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. Sometimes what we sowed in tears simply has not yet borne fruit.

Third, discern the life you are called to live next year.

Before making New Year's plans, ask in prayer, "Lord, what do you want me to sow next year?" Discernment is not choosing what we want to do. It is listening for the direction in which God is calling us. The goals need not be grand. Forgiving one person, giving the first moments of the day to God's Word, or praying for our church's next generation is enough. God will surely cause the small seeds we plant to grow.

This Thanksgiving, I encourage you to gather around the table with your family and share three things.
(1) What are you most thankful for this year?
(2) What did you sow this year?
(3) What do you want to sow next year? That conversation may bring more grace than any sermon.

I pray that we may close this year with thanksgiving and welcome the new year with hope.

With love,

Lead Pastor DongJin Choi of West Grove United Methodist Church



NOVEMBER BIBLE VERSE - GIVING

Our "Giving" Bible verse for the month of November is found in Matthew

Chapter 6 verses 19 – 21.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume or where thieves can break in and steal; For where your treasure is there will be your heart also."

On the surface these verses may same relatively easy to understand and to apply. Like most of Jesus' teachings, they reveal eternal truths that require an entire sermon, if not a series of sermons, to explain. Just what does Jesus mean by earthly treasure or by contrast heavenly treasure? For example, would Jesus consider my house an earthly treasure, Caryl's new car, or my 401K. Each requires no small amount of time, effort and money to keep and maintain. Each, in its own way, is a necessity for living responsibly in this day and age. On the other hand, a treasured possession of mine is my scale model of the USS Constitution that took me 16 years to complete. In spite of the challenges and many frustrations in making it, there was a great deal of joy and satisfaction as I completed each step. Even now, as I gaze on it inside its glass case never again to be touched by human hands, I still can feel that same sense of pride and accomplishment. Is Jesus telling us to ignore life's responsibilities and to deny ourselves all earthly pleasures, all to focus on laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven?

We know we can't buy our way into heaven. Are these so-called treasures in heaven part of some kind of point system that God will use to determine our place in heaven, once we get there? Maybe – but that's a question for another day. I think what Jesus means is that we lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven when, in our relationships with others, we put into practice those fruits of the spirit listed for us by Paul in his letter to Galatians such as: love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, goodness, faithfulness, humility, gratitude and generosity. An eternal truth for us in these verses is that when we put others first in terms of our time, talent and money and make the exercise of these spiritual fruits a priority, our lives can be transformed. When we don't, we deny ourselves the real joy and satisfaction of life that God intends for us here on earth. The danger is not what the moths, rust or robbers can do to our earthly treasure but what it does to our hearts. For, as Jesus said, "where your treasure is there will be your heart also". This brings to mind a favorite story of mine, Charles Dickens' immortal classic, "A Christmas Carol". Ebeneezer Scrooge, a highly successful businessman on one hand, but lonely, miserly, and miserable on the other, is shown the error of his ways by the visitation of three spirits. He is made to realize that all of the money and prestige that he has worked so hard to acquire, some at the expense of others, has given him absolutely no joy, no satisfaction and certainly no friends. His heart is changed and his life is transformed. Granted, Dickens' tale may be a rather extreme example of redemption of a man who is all but consumed by his own greed. Never-the-less, we too, particularly in this age of affluence, can be consumed by the many pressures, demands and choices that impact how we live and ultimately how we give. May these words of Jesus help serve as a guide so that in the words of Tiny Tim – "May God Bless us, Every One".

Looking ahead, the Bible verse for the month of December will be taken from the **Gospel of Luke, chapter 6 verse 38,** where Jesus says our giving does not go out void. There is a return.



Craft and Chat Circle

Calling All Crafters! ✂

Hello, Crafting Friends!

First, a BIG thank-you to Joyce for leading our craft gathering last month! ♥ It was so appreciated! I was lucky enough to receive some pictures and videos of your time together, and it looks like everyone had a wonderful time! Even more exciting, we welcomed FOUR new attendees! How fun is that?! The more, the merrier!

Now, it's time to mark your calendars for our next gathering! Sunday, November 15th at 1:30 pm., in The Narthex. I'm working on a fun, festive project to celebrate the season of thankfulness. I'm still putting the finishing touches on my idea, but I'm thinking it will be something Thanksgiving-themed! I'll share more details as soon as I have everything figured out, so stay tuned!

I can't wait to see everyone again for another afternoon filled with fun fellowship, lots of laughter, and plenty of cheerful creativity! Whether you're a longtime crafter or joining us for the very first time, there's always room for one more around our crafting tables!

So gather your creative spirit, bring your smiles, and get ready for another wonderful afternoon together! See you Sunday, November 15th! Let's create something fun, and make some wonderful memories, too!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH THE RESIDENTS AT TWIN PINES HEALTH CARE CENTER



We look forward to caroling again this year with those being cared for at Twin Pines in Chatham. We will meet at Twin Pines (315 E. London Grove Rd. West Grove 19390) at 3:45 in the parking lot on Monday, Dec.14th to begin caroling at 4:00 pm. We will gather with the residents in the dining room for this sing-a-long. Joan Leaman will bring her guitar and there is a piano there, for someone who might be inclined to play along. We will provide lyrics and chords for familiar Christmas songs. There will be bells, triangles and sticks for those who prefer to keep the beat. Any other musical instruments are welcome. Since the residents are always thrilled to have children and youth visit, we hope that the late afternoon time makes it possible for some of the younger generation to join us. Gather up those grandkids and bring them along! We will wrap it up by 4:45.

DIVORCE CARE

Our Divorce Care Group meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is on November 7th at 6:30 pm. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Maryalice miller at **maryalicekmiller@gmail.com** with questions or concerns.

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH ADVENT BAGS

The United Women of Faith will once again be putting together special Advent bags for members of our church family and friends who can't join us for worship or other church gatherings.
We want them to know that they're thought of and missed, and we could use your help!

1. Visit our Sign-Up Genius page to choose an item and sign up to donate.

2. Drop off 20 of the same small sized items, individually wrapped in the collection bin in Room #2 at WGUMC by November 15th. Please place your items together in a bag or labeled box with your name on it.

3. Need help with wrapping? We're happy to assist you! Simply bring your donation to the church by November 10th, and we'll take care of the wrapping.

This schedule gives us time to put the Advent bags together and deliver them before the season begins.

Thank you for helping us reach out to those who are not able to join us in person. A small gift can mean a lot, especially when it reminds someone that their church family is thinking of them. We appreciate your help in sharing love and making this Advent a little brighter for others!



COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN

If you are presently, or have in the past, sponsored a child through Compassion, we are looking for someone, or several people, to share their experiences. Our church has sponsored Efran for many years and annually takes a special collection for a monetary gift, above our monthly giving, for gifts for his birthday and Christmas. We are hoping some who have their own stories about sponsoring a Compassion child, might chose to share, either in a short mission moment during a worship service or write it down and allow someone else to read it! Or maybe put it in a monthly newsletter. It is always wonderful to hear the give and take that sponsoring a child offers.
If you have a story to share, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net)

Releasing children from poverty
Compassion®
in Jesus' name



COAT/JACKET DRIVE

WGUMC will again this year, be conducting a Winter Outerwear Collection **until November 24th.**

We are asking for donations of new or gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves, and mittens in all sizes. A rack and box will be set-up in the lobby to receive your donations. The clothing will be made available to the families that are registered with our food pantry. If you have items that you'd like to donate but aren't able to bring them to the church, we have a member who would be happy to arrange to pick them up from your home. Contact Joan Leaman at:

Children's Morning Out —(CMO) - News

Fall is here and our classrooms are filled with autumn-themed art, story times, and seasonal learning activities as we celebrate the fall season. The children are all settled in and loving school! We have been enjoying the cooler weather and sunny fall days and hope they continue well into November!

Our Fall Fundraiser and Trike-a-Thon was an absolute success! The children had a blast riding their trikes, and the bouncy houses were a massive hit with everyone. A special highlight of the day was the small animal petting zoo, where the kids loved getting up close and personal with friendly farm animals! We are thrilled with the support from our Church Members and Preschool Families!

Enjoy these Autumn Days,

Abbie and the Preschool Staff



Teaching is always colorful.....

Especially on Halloween!!!!



The final tally is in, ladies and gentleman! All your hard work, time and energy donated to the 2026 Fall Rummage Sale has made the United Women of Faith a total of $4,503.00. This money is given back to our community in many ways.

Thank you everyone.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE



West Grove UMC Food Pantry
Weekly Hours:
Wednesday: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.
Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

We will be distributing all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinners the week of Nov. 16th . We will not be open Wed. Nov. 25th and Thurs. Nov. 26th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our Winter Outerwear Drive is currently underway. Any new or gently used coats, jackets, gloves, mittens, hats and scarves are greatly appreciated. A coat rack and bin are in the church lobby for your donations. We ask that your donations be brought to the church by Nov. 24th. The donated winter clothing will then be made available to the neighbors that come to our church food pantry.

Our church received a grant from the Chester County Food Bank for an additional commercial refrigerator and freezer. This doubles our capacity to provide perishable foods to our neighbors. We have been receiving more rescued food from Giant and Acme markets that require refrigeration. The food bank has also increased the variety and amount of frozen and refrigerated foods that are available for us to order for our weekly distributions. We're thrilled to be able to safely store all the extra food that has come our way.



Our special items will be toothpaste, toothbrushes and mouthwash for the month of November.



CHAIR YOGA

Join us each Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 pm.

Chair Yoga is still going strong every Tuesday at 1:30 pm. in the sanctuary!

Come stretch, breathe and discover that "downward dog" is perfectly optional when you have a chair — no mat, no yoga experience and no need to touch your toes required.

There will be no class on Voting Day, November 3rd.

HOOKS NEEDLES AND KNOTS, OH MY!

WEST GROVE WOMAN SUPPORTS UNHOUSED PHILADELPHIA RESIDENTS WITH 'BLESSING BAGS'



West Grove resident Stacey McMann has spent a decade supporting unhoused residents in Philadelphia with her "Blessing Bags," and was written up in the Chester County Press a few months ago. For years, Stacy McMann has put together paper bags filled with clothing, food, hygiene products, and sentimental notes to give to people experiencing homelessness. Dubbed her "Blessing Bags," she distributes them throughout the city, completing about four drops of 25 bags each per year.

Hooks, Needles, and Knots, Oh My! will be a part of Stacy McMann's November drop off. WGUMC's deadline is November 20th by knitting/crocheting 25 winter warm items for the homeless in Philadelphia.

We have almost 25 items, with a few more scarves to go.

There is still time if you want to be a part of this project. Join us on at our next gathering, at 9:30am November 6th in the conference room, we have free yarn, OR knit/crochet from home and drop off by Friday 9:30am, November 20.

Thank you for supporting this outreach. Shirley Daddario Pres. United Women in Faith

Cindy Hoover, Vice Pres., Sharon Nesbit, Treasurer, Paulette Bryan, Secretary

Upcoming Dates to Remember For November

November 1st **Daylight Savings Time Begins**
November 3rd **Election Day - Yoga Class**
November 4th **Word & Prayer/Divorce Group**
November 5th **Yoga Class/Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study**
November 6th **Hooks, Needles & Knots/Stephen Ministry**
November 7th **Charge Conference**
November 9th **Just Sing**
November 10th **Yoga Class**
November 11th **Word & Prayer**
November 12th **Thursday Night Bible Study**
November 13th **RAP/Stephen Ministry**
November 14th **Bill Mears Celebration of Life**
November 15th **Crafts and Chat Circle**
November 17th **Yoga Class**
November 18th **Word & Prayer**
November 19th **Thursday Night Bible Studey**
November 20th **Hooks, Needles & Knots, Stephen Ministry, Potluck Game Night**
November 23rd **Just Sing**
November 24th **Yoga Class**
November 25th **Word & Prayer**
November 26th **Thanksgiving Day**
November 28th **United Methodist Men's Breakfast**

United Women in Faith

South District UWFaith Annual Meeting

Location: Downingtown United Methodist Church
751 East Lancaster Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335

Saturday, November 14, 2026
9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Registration, fellowship and continental breakfast at 9 a.m. and program at 10 a.m.)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Jill Laufenberg,
The Church of the Loving Shepherd, West Chester
"Dream Bigger"

Lunch provided by Chef Tony
$20.00 per person

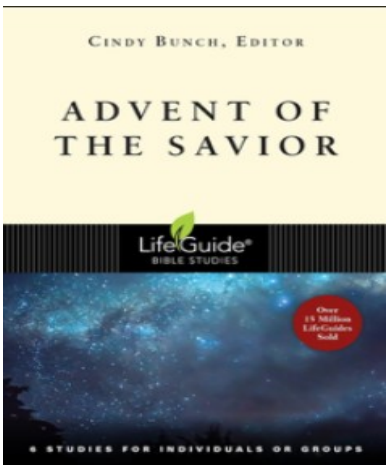
Business Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2027

Mission Activity: Items for "care packages" for Neighborhood Services

SEE SIGN UP SHEET IN NARTHEX
RSVP Shirley Daddario
shirleydad@verizon.net

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY:

A 6-week Bible study for Advent will begin on Tuesday, November 10th at 2:15 pm. The group will meet in the church library and will follow a discussion centered format around the study booklet, "Advent of the Savior," by Cindy Bunch. The meetings will again be led by Carol McGinley and Debbie & Jake Schneider. If you're interested in attending, please contact Jake & Debbie at tbones7@comcast.net or Carol at cmcginley@zoominternet.net. Please come join us! All are welcome!



RAP November Program - "Retired Active People"



Medicare Open Enrollment is happening now through December 7th. If you are currently on Medicare, preparing to enroll, or seeking information for a loved one, please join us on Friday, November 13th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. for a special "Medicare 101"presentation. We will host a PA MEDI counselor from the Chester County Office on Aging to discuss the basics of Medicare, including Medicare Advantage, Medigaps, Prescription Drug Plans, and key changes for 2027. Attendees will also learn about federal and state programs designed to assist with costs.

This is a great opportunity to get your questions answered and receive objective, easy-to-understand guidance from a trained professional.

Bring your brown-bag lunch and join us at noon. Coffee, iced tea, and water are provided. Please RSVP to Sandy Pardoe at sandytrul@yahoo.com so we have adequate seating.

We hope you will join us on November 13th for an informative and helpful afternoon!

If you have any questions, reach out to any RAP Committee member: Sandy Pardoe (chairperson) **Joyce Lewis**: joyalew29@comcast.net - **Caryl Stuhrke**: spikoe@aol.com - **Paulette Bryan**: gigibryan16@gmail.com - **Cindy Weyant**: cweyant1@gmail.com





CHRISTMAS MUSIC CELEBRATION

Tone up those vocal cords, practice those dance routines or shape up that talent of yours and sign up to participate in the annual "Christmas Music Celebration" to be held on December 6th at 6:30 pm. Contact Betsy Smith at: musicmomva@aol.com by November 29th.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 4th **Word & Prayer/Divorce Group**
November 5th **Thursday Night Bible Study**
November 6th **Hooks, Needles & Knots/Stephen Ministry**
November 7th **Charge Conference**
November 9th **Just Sing**
November 10th **Yoga Class**
November 12th **Thursday Night Bible Study**
November 13th **RAP/Stephen Ministry**
November 15th **Craft & Chat Circle**
November 17th **Yoga Class**
November 19th **Thursday Night Bible Study**
November 20th **Stephen Ministry/Potluck Game Night**
November 23rd **Just Sing**
November 24th **Yoga Class**
November 25th **Word & Prayer Advent**
November 28th **United Methodist Men Breakfast**

WGUMC MEETING SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

November 4th **7:15 pm.- Worship/Staff Meeting**
November 7th **8:00 am. - 3:00 pm.—Charge Conference**
November 11th **9:00 am. - Mission Team Meeting.**
November 18th **6:30 - 8:15 - Vision Team Meeting**

WEST GROVE UMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS/MEETINGS

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. 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**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jim Mundell	06	Mel Leaman	18
Jamie Hocking	07	Holly Stewart	18
Heather Wolfe	09	Bill Pardoe	20
Chris Bruno	09	Tom Warfel	22
Abby Herman	10	Justin Lytle	24
Carol Sweet	13	Alyssa Lytle	24
David Covington	14	Emily Lytle	24
Jayna Bruno	16	Kelly Hendrickson	24
Bonnie Wolff	17	Linda Brown	29





JOIN the JOYFULLY NOISY SINGERS

All women and men who are self-proclaimed "off-key singers" and **ONLY** "off-key singers," are invited to gather to just sing for the pure joy of it!

No pressure, no auditions, and absolutely no judgment. Just come and sing together because we don't believe there is such a thing as "off-key singers" .

AND because singing together feels good, even if we miss those notes. There will be back up music and lyrics to sing with. Come use your voice.

Mondays — at 10:30 am , next meeting is November 9th and November 23rd

Join us for coffee and just sing for the joy of it. Other dates will follow.

SIGN UP SHEET IS IN THE LOBBY - or - no worries just come!

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 -9:30 am.

Next meeting is November 28th

There is no breakfast in the month of December.

More information will be shared as plans are made.

All men and boys are invited to attend. Contact Michael Duvall with your questions. (mwduvall@aol.com)

UNITED METHODIST MEN

WEST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

~ Encounter ~ Empower~ Engage ~
Encouraging our community to be followers of Christ..

Constant Contact

DO YOU RECEIVE WGUMC'S WEEKLY CONSTANT CONTACT EMAILS?

We publish a Weekly West Grove Wednesday edition which features upcoming events or events that have popped up unexpectedly. Also a Saturday Sneak-a-Peek about the sermon on Sunday and other information, including our newsletter, and a link to the current week's bulletin.

If you are not receiving these two emails, perhaps you elected to unsubscribe or they are being treated as spam and are going directly to trash.

If you are missing out and would like to be on the list, email April Spencer, our Church Administrator, at office@westgroveumc.org or call the office at 610-869-9334. She will be happy to add you to the list!

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Staff

Rev. DongJin (DJ) Choi, Lead Pastor,
pastor@westgroveumc.org

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor,
Chaplain at Jenner's Pond
Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

April Spencer - Church Administrator
Office@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Director
Keyboardist
Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Bill Pardoe—IT Director
billpardoe1@gmail.com

Abbie Gruscavage—Children's Morning Out Director
cmo@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena—Janitorial Services
sexton@westgroveumc.org

Sunday Worship Service 9:27 am.

Vision Team

Dick Stuhrke - Vision Team Chair (Ad. Council)
Shirley Daddario - Vision Team Co-Chairperson
Dan Elliott - Finance Chair
Mark Simonds - Trustees Chair
John Gambill - Trustees Co-Chairperson
Cindy Hoover - SPRC Chair
Christine Bruno - SPRC Co-Chairperson
Paulette Bryan - Vision Team Recording Secretary
Joan Leaman - Member at large /Lay Leader
DJ Choi - Lead Pastor (Ex-officio member)
(Ex-officio members do not vote.)

Other Committees

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair
Open -Delegate to Annual Conference
Pastor DJ Choi - Chair of Lay Leadership Committee
Shirley Daddario - U.W.F. President
Cindy Hoover - U.W.F. Vice President.
Sharon Nesbit -UWF Treasurer
Paulette Bryan - UWF Secretary
Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator
Joan Leaman - Financial Secretary
Valerie Kapp-Benner - Finance Treasurer
Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator
Cindy Hoover - CMO Advisory Board Chair
Sandy Pardoe - R.A.P Coordinator