

# The Wesleyan Star April

2025

West Grove  
United Methodist Church  
Pastor DJ Choi

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

April 6<sup>th</sup>

"The Torture and Humiliation of the King"

Mark 15:15b-23

Pastor DJ Choi

April 13<sup>th</sup>

"The Crucifixion"

Mark 15: 25-39

Pastor DJ Choi

April 20<sup>th</sup>

"Christ the Victor"

Mark 16: 1-6

Pastor DJ Choi

April 27<sup>th</sup>

"The Victory Has Been Won"

Matthew 28: 1-10, Corinthians 15:20-26, 50-58

Pastor Jim Mundell

May 4<sup>th</sup>

"Love That Stays"

1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

Youth Run Sunday

Xavier Feliciano (Youth Director) preaching

## WGUMC CALENDAR

Youth Group -Thursday's @ 6:00 -7:00 pm.

April 1st, Trustee Meeting, 6:30-8:30 pm.

April 2nd, Full Staff Meeting, 10:00 am.

April 5th, WGUMC Clean Up, 9:00 am. -4:00 pm.

April 8th, Missions Team Meeting, 10:00 -11:30 am.

April 8th, Hospitality Meeting, 6:30-8:00 pm.

April 13th, Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am. To 1:00 pm.

April 15th, Staff Parish Meeting, 6:30 -8:30 pm.

April 16th, Finance Meeting, 5:30 -6:30 pm.

April 16th, Ad Council Meeting, 6:30 -8:30 pm..

April 17th, Mid-Week Ministry begins, 4:30 -6:00 pm.

April 22nd, Images Bible Study Begins, 1:00 pm.

April 27th, Rummage Sale Collection and setup begins



## 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.



**WORSHIP SERVICE 9:27 AM.**  
**YOUTH GROUP TUESDAY, 6 TO 7 PM.**

### Chancel Choir Cantata

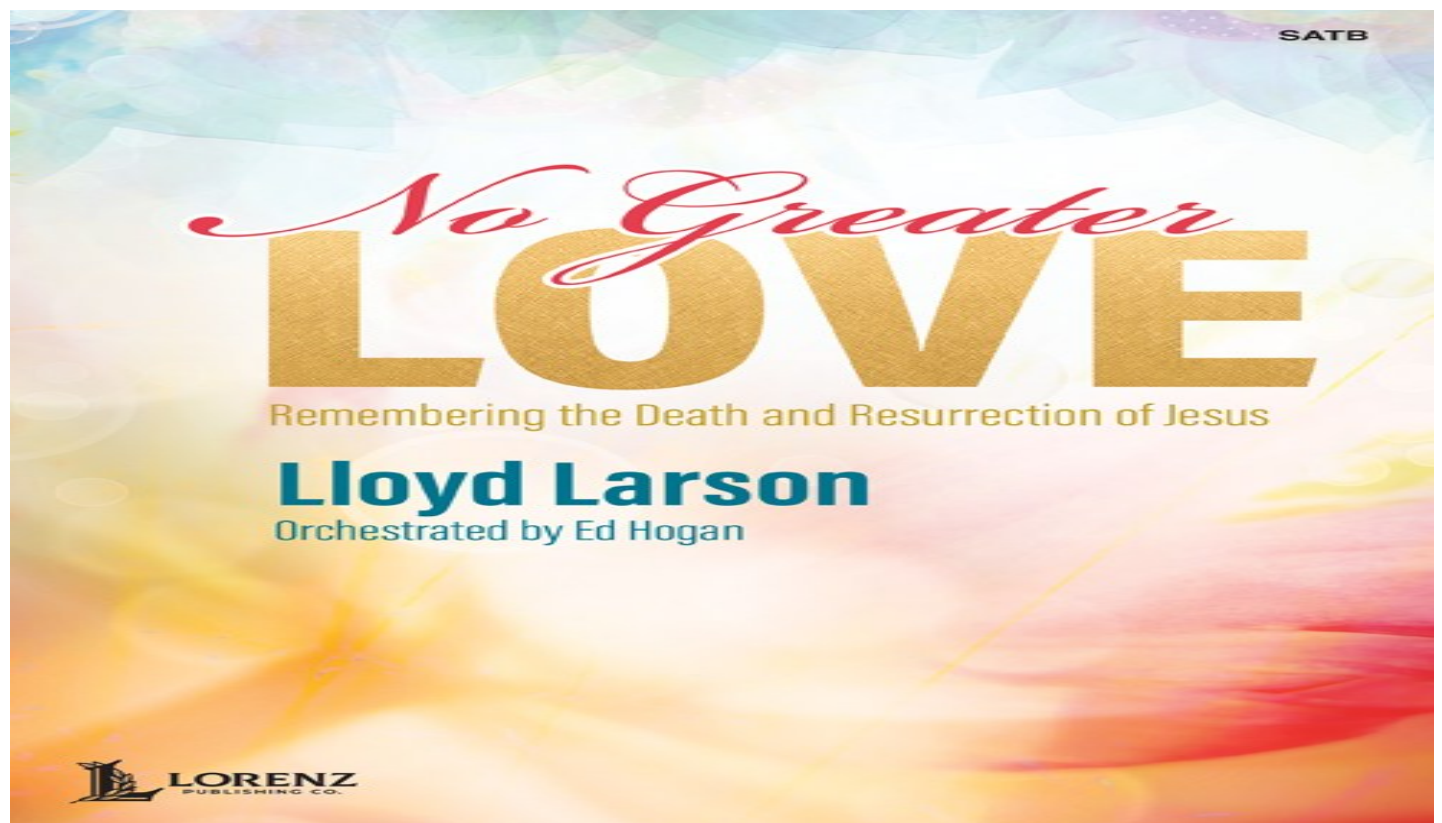
Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the 9:27 worship service

### "No Greater Love"

*Remembering the Death and Resurrection of Jesus*

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

In a world where selfish love is the norm, Jesus models a selfless form of love. We cannot journey to the cross and ultimately an empty tomb without being challenged to be models of this form of love. Our cantata includes original material and familiar hymns which are woven together to describe the events from Palm Sunday to Easter morning.





## Easter Flowers

*Order your Easter Lilies, tulips and daffodils to adorn the sanctuary during our Easter Services. Take them home to*

*beautify your house after our Easter Sunday Service.*

*Lillies are \$10.50, Tulips and Daffodils are \$6.95.*

*Drop your check in the offering plate marked "flowers" choice of flower and number you wish to order.*

## GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER VIGIL 2025

**Please join in the Good Friday Prayer Vigil**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon through**

**April 19<sup>th</sup> ending at noon.**

**You may pray at home or wherever you may be.**

**Pray for 15 mins. Pray for 30 mins. Pray for an hour.**

**Prayer request forms will be available April 6<sup>th</sup> in the narthex.**

***Prayer requests will be emailed to those participating on***

**April 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Sign-up sheets will be available March 30<sup>th</sup> in the narthex.**



**Good Friday  
Prayer Vigil**

# ICE Response Policy

## (ICE - Immigration and Customs Enforcement)

I would like to share with you the decision West Grove UMC's Church Council made on the ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Response Policy on March 19, 2025. Our Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi of Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, encourages local churches to adopt and be prepared with the ICE Response Policy in case ICE or any other Government authority tries to enter WGUMC to search and arrest any illegal immigrants in our church.



We are aware there is a sharp conflict of opinion on the illegal immigrant issues of our nation. So I would like to be transparent with the church's decision on the ICE Response Policy. The main purpose of the ICE Response Policy is not obstructing law enforcement or demonizing our government or increasing political bias within the church, but to uphold our Constitution and protect the constitutional rights of everyone.

We have over 130 Hispanic families receiving food weekly. We don't know how many of them are undocumented people who illegally entered into the U.S. We must protect their constitutional rights, even if they are illegal immigrants. God wants us to have preferred interest toward the poor and needy, widows, orphans, foreigners, the margins of our society. So as long as it is legal, we must protect them from unlawful treatment.

So our basic ICE Response is to not consent to the entry of ICE or any law enforcement without a Valid Judicial Warrant. If they do have a valid Warrant, we will cooperate with them. We are not trying to harbor any illegal immigrants in our church building. But we are trying to be a safe Sanctuary for those vulnerable people as long as we uphold the constitution of our nation.

I pray that West Grove United Methodist Church will find unity and continue to serve together and do the missions of the church and confront the challenges before us.

Joan Leaman and I are designated Point Persons, which are the primary contact and response person, when ICE comes to our church. Feel free to contact us with any questions. The Response Policy is available in the church office as well.

In Christ

Pastor DJ

### ATTENTION WGUMC:

Pastor Tim Anderman has fallen ill and is currently in the Brethren Village Rehab Center in Lancaster. Please join us in prayer for Tim's healthy recovery.

The address of the Rehab Center is:

Brethren Village Rehab Center

**3001 Lititz Pk., Lancaster, PA. 17543.**





## **West Grove UMC Youth & Kids Ministry - March Recap**

March has been an exciting month for our Youth and Kids Ministries at West Grove UMC! We kicked off the month with a fantastic Taco Tuesday event, where 14 youth came out to enjoy a night of fellowship, fun, and faith. We started the evening with a short lesson and then shared a delicious taco meal together. It was a joy to see new faces and returning friends. Remember youth are always welcome to bring a friend along, and RSVPs help us plan for enough food!

We're also thrilled to announce the launch of our West Grove UMC Youth Instagram page! Follow us for updates on upcoming events, photos, and encouraging content as we continue growing this community rooted in God's love. If you know a student looking for a group that cares, invite them to join us Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:00 PM. We've had great attendance the past five weeks, and we're excited about what's ahead.

Looking ahead, our youth will be serving the church and community by helping CMO with mulching the playground in April. A mission project that reflects our heart for service. Additionally, our youth will assist in launching an exciting new program:

## **INTRODUCING.....**



## **Midweek Ministry – Starting April 17th!**

We're excited to begin Midweek Ministry, a brand-new weekly program designed for kids ages 4-12. This midweek gathering offers a fun and faith-filled space for children to grow spiritually and connect with others.

□ Every Thursday | 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM □ West Grove UMC

### **Schedule:**

4:30 PM – Arrival & Playtime

4:45 PM – Sing-Along Worship (Big screen worship in the sanctuary)

Engaging Bible Lesson and then Snack Time

To make this ministry a success, we're looking for caring volunteers! Whether you enjoy teaching, leading activities, or offering a helping hand, there's a place for you to serve. If you're interested, fill out our volunteer interest form we'd love to have you on our team!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we grow these ministries and create spaces where kids and youth experience God's love.

## Retired Active People



**RAPs next gathering is Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
at noon in the sanctuary. Join us as we  
celebrate a new year and upcoming new  
programs.**

## **THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF OUR PROGRAMS FOR 2025:**

**April 11, 2025, Storyteller, Diane Albertson** will talk about the Titanic with whimsical tales

**May 9, 2025, the Providence Brass Band** will once again entertain us with their wonderful music

RAP (Retired Active People)

RAP gathers again on Friday, April 11, 2025 at noon in the church sanctuary. We are excited to welcome Diane Albertson, a local storyteller. Diane will entertain us with stories of the Titanic. Bring your bagged lunch and join us on the 11th of April. Desserts and hot and cold beverages are provided as we enjoy fellowship prior to the program. Joyce Lewis will be our leader for the afternoon.

Last month as we gathered on March 14, we welcomed Matthew Collins BS, FP-C, CCEMT-P, NRP. Matt provided hands only CPR demonstration and AED instructions. He left us with an information packet for the STAR program, along with magnets to keep on our refrigerators for emergency use if ever needed. Additional packets may be found in the church lobby.

Thank you Caryl Stuhrke for your leadership in March. Thank you volunteers who provided the many desserts we enjoyed. Thank you Austin McCummings for setting up our tables and chairs. Without volunteers our time together would not come together so well. We appreciate all the help we receive. If you are interested in helping with our setup and cleanup, or by providing a dessert, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you on April 11th. Invite your friends and extend an invitation to others. Everyone is invited! Come, and enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship with us.

Please RSVP to Sara Ann Ramberger at 610-869-3863 or at sar57ver@verizon.net to let us know you plan to attend so we may setup and plan accordingly. Thank you!

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





## EMBRACING GOD'S VISION

Why establish a Vision Team for West Grove United Methodist Church? Because embracing God's vision empowers us with a divine sense of purpose and direction, inspiring us to work together in unity and harmony. It ignites our passion and commitment, driving us to make the meaningful impact of God's presence in our community. With God's vision, we are resilient and unstoppable, ready to overcome any challenge to fulfill our higher calling. Only by collectively embracing God's vision can we all put it into action.

On January 26<sup>th</sup> this year, immediately following the regular Sunday morning service, Pastor DJ Choi introduced the Vision Team to WGUMC. In addition to himself, the Pastor appointed Reverend Janice Bowers, Joan Leaman, Dick Stuhrke, Michael Duvall, Gene Aucott, Xavier Feliciano, and Dan Elliott to the team. Since that late January introduction, this team has met four times, totaling about 8 hours. The amazing fact is we have had 100% attendance and participation in these meetings!

The Vision Team's end goal is for the congregation to become a healthy, thriving, God-centered, and service-oriented community that demonstrates God's love for each other, proving we are pleasing to God. For this and many other similar reasons, the Vision Team is working and praying together to identify the strengths and needs of the congregation and to discern God's will in meeting those needs.

To meet this objective, Gene, the team's facilitator, leads our discussions then organizes and records our concerns, ideas, and hopes. He has done a commendable job putting together diagrams that depict our perceived strengths and weaknesses, how people became part of our congregation, why people leave, and how we can keep people engaged by exploring growth and retention opportunities. This information, with your feedback, will then be used to develop a Mission Statement, goals, and plans for action.

**For that we, the Vision Team, will need your help!** We solicit your prayers so the church leadership can better meet our congregation's worship and service needs. Soon, we will be asking for your help to add to our findings and help identify opportunities for growth or concerns we can address. We will start this process in a few weeks by asking you some important questions in a brief survey.

With the Lord Jesus's help, in His Name, we pray God will inspire each of our hearts with His unity, courage, and vision of love for our future.

On behalf of the Vision Team,  
Yours in Christ,  
Dan Elliott



## **West Grove UMC Food Pantry**

### **Weekly Hours:**

**Wednesdays: 5:00—6:00 pm.**

**Thursdays: 1:00—2:00 pm.**

**Thank you to West Grove Fire Company.**

**And the Chester County Food Bank**



# ***Food Pantry***

## **Food Pantry Update**

Item of the Month of April is “Cooking Oil” – Any variety of cooking oil is appreciated. We do ask that you purchase 16oz. bottles, or smaller, so that we can acquire as many bottles as possible since we feed about 120 families weekly. Please put your donations in the labeled black bin in the church lobby.

Thank you for your generous donations of shampoo in the month of March. We had set a goal of collecting at least 50 bottles of shampoo and we met that ambitious goal!

Volunteers are the heart of our food pantry outreach. We are thrilled that two more people from our church family have stepped up to volunteer. We currently have 15 volunteers that are members or worship with our church. We have 25 more volunteers from the community that regularly help out. Right now we are looking for additional volunteers that can help with our Avondale Acme bakery rescues on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. This requires about an hour of your time. Some volunteers help once a month and some volunteer more often. If you have an interest in learning more about this volunteer job or volunteering, in general, for our food pantry, please contact Joan Leaman ([jmleaman@comcast.net](mailto:jmleaman@comcast.net)). We thank you in advance!

## **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

**Sale Dates— May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Clean out your attic and basement and donate your purge to the WGUMC Spring Rummage Sale. Donations accepted beginning after 9:30 service on April 27th.**







Happy Official Spring! Spring time always means a very busy season here at Preschool. While the trees and flowers are busy blooming, so are the children. It is amazing seeing how much they have all grown since the fall and we are excited about all of their progress. This time of year always reminds us that every child is a different kind of flower and all together make this world a beautiful garden.

We had lots of activities that kept us busy during the month of March. The children worked hard to create very intricate Leprechaun Traps in hopes of finally catching one of mischievous little guys. Despite their best efforts and some truly amazing traps, the leprechaun managed to create some classroom chaos and avoid getting trapped! Maybe next year.....

We had a very fun and informative Community Helpers visit in March as well. We had Firefighters, EMTs, Police Officers, and Dental Hygienists come and tell us all about their important jobs and how they all help the community. It was so much fun learning about these special jobs and seeing the emergency vehicles up close! We all learned a lot and we extend many thanks to our Community Helpers.

Until Next Time,

Abbie and the CMO Staff

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.**

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)



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)? <https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/ask-the-umc-faqs>



## BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

04/01 Joyce Bischoff  
04/02 Alan Bratton  
04/04 Sue Curtis  
04/08 Payton Ingiosi  
04/10 Patrick Wiwel  
04/14 Janet Phillips  
04/15 Virgil Brown  
04/16 Maggie Stuhrke



04/17 Charlie Bechtel  
04/17 Kathy Wiwel  
04/18 Thomas Hoover  
04/18 Sue Hutton  
04/19 Roxanne Shane  
04/22 April Stoltzfus  
04/26 Roger Bates  
04/30 John McGinley  
04/30 April Spencer

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



April 2025



## DO YOU RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY (WGUMC) 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](mailto:office@westgroveumc.org) or call the office at 610-869-9334. She will be happy to add you to the list!

## ~ 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.*

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

### **Staff**

Rev. DJ Choi, Lead Pastor,  
[pastor@westgroveumc.org](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)

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

[Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)

Xavier Feliciano - Youth & Children's Ministry  
Director

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

April Spencer - Church Administrator

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

Valerie Kapp-Benner—Financial Administrator

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

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director  
Contemporary Music Interim Director  
Keyboardist

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

Bill Pardoe—Technical Magician

[billpardoe1@gmail.com](mailto:billpardoe1@gmail.com)

Lavenia Civitella—Handbell Choir Director

[Misslavenia@verizon.net](mailto:Misslavenia@verizon.net)

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)

**Sunday Worship Service**  
**9:27 am.**

### **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 and  
Financial Administrator

OPEN - Trustee Chair

Vicki Owens - Treasurer

Dan Elliott - SPRC Chair

Children's Ministry Team Contact

Open - Missions Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley & Cindy Haley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Open - 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

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

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