



The Wesleyan
Star
July 2026

West Grove
United Methodist Church
Pastor DJ Choi

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

“ Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray.” Mark 6:45-46

Summer, the season of vacation, has arrived. What plans do you have?
Are you heading to the mountains? Or to the beach?

We all need a retreat. Jesus Himself, whenever He had the chance, would withdraw from the crowds to be alone. The reason was simple — He needed time alone with God. Are you going to have times of solitude with God? Not just in the summer, but we always need quiet time — time to look inward and reflect. We need self-examination.

This summer, you will have plenty of time in the mountains, at the beach,
and with your families. If you want that time to truly recharge you,
you must intentionally make room for time with the Lord.

When you visit your vacation destination, try visiting a local church. And if there is no church nearby, find other ways to meet God — meditate on His Word, write in a journal, sing or listen to worship music, or spend time in prayer.
There are many ways to encounter Him.

One thing we must not forget: the mission of the church does not stop.
Throughout the summer, the church will be undergoing renovations and a fresh new look.
Our food pantry will continue operating without pause,
providing groceries to over 130 families. Someone will also need to water the
community garden and flower beds. And to keep the church running,
your tithes and offerings are needed.

Your responsibilities as members of this church do not disappear.
I pray that this summer would not simply be a vacation where you step away
from your place, but rather a time of rest in the presence of the Lord.

Lead Pastor DongJin Choi

CONGRATULATIONS WGUMC CONFIRMANDS

On Sunday, May 24th, 2026 WGUMC had the honor and privilege to confirm four individuals from our congregation.

Nika Anklin, Eva Anklin, Brady Castaldi and Aaliyah Zmijowski were all confirmed in faith that day and we here at WGUMC couldn't be any prouder.





Over the past few months, we have enjoyed the Stewardship devotionals Dick Stuhrke has so excellently presented to us. Thank you, Dick!

Our “Giving” Bible verse for the month of July is found in Hebrews 10:24:

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works."

I love the book of Hebrews! Reading its pages of revealed truth, I find my heart filled with eternal hope, which the Lord, in time, transforms into precious faith (Heb. 11:1).

Today we hear all sorts of complaining. It has almost become normal to not be happy about anything around us. In God, I have found a better way.

The combination of hope and faith manifests itself as gratitude. Hebrews 12:28 tells us, "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe."

Gratitude is required for us to worship God!

Hebrews 10:24 points us toward a very high standard for living: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." Instead of viewing our neighbors as people who need to be corrected or persuaded, see them through a generous mindset. Do recognize all people, regardless of affiliation, as our equals before God and as precious enough to be "considered" in our own lives.

From a stewardship perspective, this generosity mindset is about much more than money. It involves faithfully managing all that God has entrusted to us—our time, talents, abilities, possessions, and financial resources—in order to promote the values of God's unshakable Kingdom in blessing others.

Such generosity is contagious. When people witness faithful stewardship in action, they are often inspired to follow the example. A volunteer encourages another volunteer. A generous giver motivates others to contribute. A person who willingly shares their talents often inspires others to discover and use their own gifts in service to God. In this way, stewardship strengthens both the individual believer and the entire church community.

I recall Pastor Jim recently sharing his intention to leave a significant portion of his estate to the West Grove church. That inspired me to do better—to be better than I was. What joy God has given me as I learn to let go of what He has provided and use it to advance His Kingdom.

I believe the lesson for us this month is that good stewardship is practiced in a spirit of gratitude transformed into generosity, inspired by hope and faith in God. As we journey through the month of July, may we seek opportunities to express our gratitude through a generous spirit towards God and others.

Looking ahead, the Bible verse for August will be taken from Matthew 25:14-30, where Jesus teaches that faithful stewardship means using wisely the gifts and resources God has entrusted to us.

Dan Elliott

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM PASTOR TIM

Dear Friends,

We want to express our gratitude for your prayers, cards, texts, notes and visits during my recent open heart surgery, and last year's illness and hospital stay too. I have begun cardiac rehab and am hopeful of getting my strength back as I work on their program. We completed our move back to Lancaster at the beginning of the year, and it took much of our time at the holidays. Our new address is:

2 Resch Lane
Lancaster, PA 17602
(H) 717-874-5962

God's blessings to everyone,
Tim & Julie Anderman



WORD & PRAYER MEETING

◆◆ Gather together, share Words of ◆◆
God and Pray together

**EVERY TUESDAY 7PM-8PM
IN THE LIBRARY**

Beginning September 1st

Let Your Faith Be Bigger
Than Your Fears

For More Information, Contact:
Pastor DJ Choi
pastor@westgroveumc.org
215-776-9684

HIKING & ICE CREAM

Friends, Fellowship and Treats



**Third Monday of the Month
June thru September
Meeting Time: 6:30 PM
Goddard Park
568 Wickerton Rd.
West Grove, PA 19390**

Questions contact Andrew Herman
at hermanandrew@yahoo.com

Come out for a
walk in Goddard
Park then go to
The Station in
West Grove for a
treat.

NEXT HIKE - JULY 20th

WGUMC Potluck Picnic in the Pavilion

**Live
Music**

**THURSDAY JULY
23RD @ 630 PM**

**WEST GROVE UMC
300 N. GUERNSEY RD
WEST GROVE, PA 19390**



Bring Your Favorite Dish to Share

[Sign up sheet located in the narthex.](#)

RUMMAGE SALE

OUR NEXT RUMMAGE SALE IS OCTOBER 2ND 3RD.

While you are cleaning out that basement or attic this summer, don't forget that WGUMC will be having it's bi-annual rummage sale in the fall.

So pack that stuff up and put it aside. We will start collecting your rummage on September 27th.

Children's Morning Out —(CMO) - News



Happy Summer! While Preschool has ended for the year, we have still been busy here at CMO. We decided to run a three week summer camp for the first three weeks in June and I am happy to report it was a great success!

We were full each of the three weeks and the children had so much fun with Ms. Natty, Ms. April, Ms. Katie, Ms. Jessica, Ms. Julie and me!

Each week there was a different theme and the children had fun "learning" about the outdoors and camping, the ocean, as well as bugs and gardening.

We spent the large majority of our mornings outside just enjoying the great weather and fresh air. We ended each morning with water play and I believe that was the hit of camp each day!

The teachers and I are all ready for a few weeks of rest and relaxation before we start to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Until then; I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

All the best, Abbie



STAYING HEALTHY WITH CHAIR YOGA

Chair yoga sessions at WGUMC continue thru the summer. We meet every Tuesday, at 1:30 pm sharp to 2:15 pm in the sanctuary with Julissa Sanchez who is our certified yoga instructor, who also instructs at the YMCA in Jennersville.

Wear comfortable clothes, bring your water. A minimum \$5 donation is appreciated. No person will be turned away if a donation is a hardship.

Together, let's take steps toward healthier living, one gentle stretch at a time!

Bring a friend!



HOOKS NEEDLES AND KNOTS, OH MY

Join the knitting group called Hooks, Needles, and Knots, Oh My!

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month for fellowship, creativity, and service. Together, we knit and crochet handmade items to share with those in need in our community and beyond.

All skill levels are welcome, whether you are an experienced knitter or crochet-er or just learning.

Currently the ladies have made scarves for the advent bags, dish clothes, and decorative flowers for the VBS Tropical Island.

Come be part of a caring group that turns yarn into warmth, comfort, and hope at West Grove United Methodist Church.

The dates for this month are July 3rd and July 17th,



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WOMEN'S TEA

Date: Sunday, September 13th, 2026 at 3:00pm.

Where: West Grove United Methodist Church

Who: All Women - **RSVP: Sign-up in the narthex**

Join us for a delightful afternoon at our annual Women's Tea!

This special event is a wonderful opportunity for fun, fellowship, and celebration. We invite you to bring a special friend in your life—whether it's your mother, daughter, sister, or a cherished friend—as we honor and uplift the women who mean so much to us. Enjoy tea, treats, and meaningful conversations. Let's celebrate together!



YOUTH AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come on out and help the residents of the nearby Twin Pines Health Center play Bingo! We need 5 to 10 volunteers.

**TUESDAY
JULY 28**

2:00 PM

**TWIN PINES HEALTH CARE
CENTER
315 E. LONDON GROVE RD. WEST
GROVE PA 19390**

Sign Up Now!

Questions contact Andrew Herman @ HermanAndrew@yahoo.com

**Sign up on the sign up sheet posted in the narthex.
Contact Andrew Herman for more details:
HermanAndrew@yahoo.com**



Hello Craft and Chat Circle!!

Our July gathering will be on Sunday July 19th at 1:30 in the narthex.

We will be making an 8 x 8 canvas with a wooden tree and button embellishments. The cost for our project will be \$4.00

Bring a friend and enjoy an afternoon filled with fun and laughter. We have been making some amazing items, and getting to know each other a little better.

We really are having a great time being together. Please let Sandy Pardoe know if you will be joining in on the fun, so we will have enough supplies.

sandytrul@yahoo.com

Thank you, I am looking forward to seeing you there!



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

Food Pantry Update

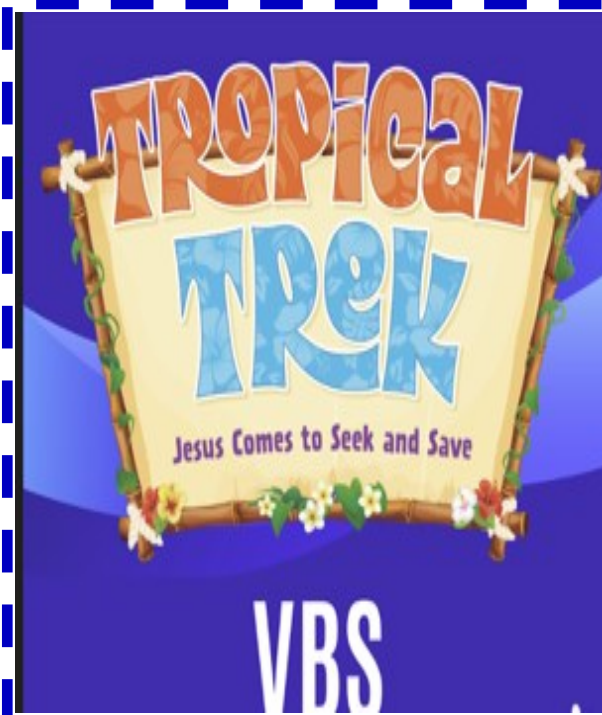
July marks a new calendar year for our neighbors to register for our food pantry. We can always use additional help when we are registering so many at one time. If you've been thinking about offering some time to the food pantry, this would be the perfect time.

(There will be no Food Pantry distribution on July 15th and 16th)

Please talk with Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net) if you have an interest.

For the month of July, we will be collecting 1# packages of spaghetti. You may put your donations in the food pantry room, the black bin in the lobby or on the blue cart outside the lobby door if the doors are locked.





VBS Called Off This Summer

Due to a later start opening our registration this year, we don't have enough students signed-up to offer a quality, meaningful program this July.

We are looking forward to using the Tropical Trek VBS program next summer.

We will set next year's dates for VBS as soon as possible so people may plan their schedules with that week in mind. We will also select a week that other local churches are not offering their VBS program.

Thanks to the many people who signed-up to volunteer and/or donate snack supplies.

We hope you will be able to help us next summer.

Serenity Prayer

**God, grant me the Serenity
to accept the things I cannot change.
The courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.**

**Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is;
Not as I would have it;
Trusting that You will make all things right
if I surrender to Your will;**

**So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely
happy with You forever in the next.**

AMEN

courageouschristianfather.com

Reinhold Niebuhr



Community Garden

“Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?”

Our community garden is exploding with growth, thanks to those who have volunteered their time and energy to water and tend it.

Take a look!



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUR GARDEN GROW, PLEASE CONTACT
JUDY GAMBILL: jl456@epix.net OR PASTOR DJ: office@westgroveumc.org**

WE HAVE A NEW CHURCH LOGO



WEST
GROVE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Our Vision:
ENCOUNTER,
EMPOWER,
ENGAGE**

**Our Community to be
followers of Christ**

LOOK FOR IT ON OUR BULLETINS,
NEWSLETTERS AND WEBSITE!

DIVORCE CARE

LIVING FORWARD

DivorceCare is a monthly support group for the divorced or separated. Let us help guide you to healing!!

MEETS 1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 6:30-7:30PM IN CHURCH LIBRARY

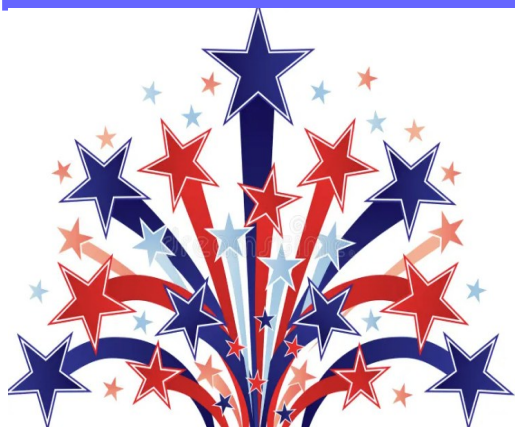
Next Meeting:

WEDNESDAY, July 1st

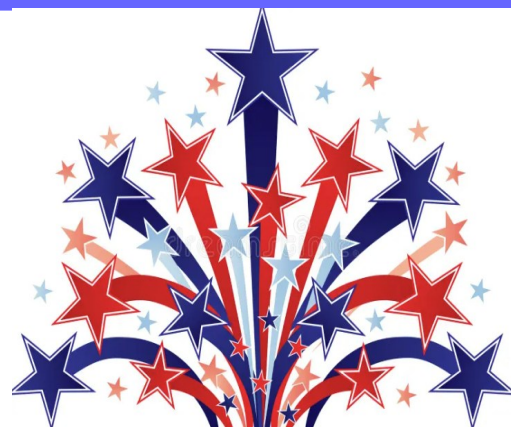
Divorce Care will not Meet during the month of August.

CONTACT:

MARYALICE MILLER AT
maryalicekmiller@gmail.com



**COMING
IN
JULY**



Upcoming Dates to Remember For July

<u>July 1st</u>	Divorce Care	<u>July 3rd</u>	Hooks, Needles & Knots
<u>July 7th</u>	Yoga Class	<u>July 14th</u>	Yoga Class
<u>July 17th</u>	Hooks, Needles & Knots	<u>July 19th</u>	Crafts and Chat Circle
<u>July 20th</u>	Hike and Ice Cream	<u>July 21st</u>	Yoga Class
<u>July 23rd</u>	Potluck in the Pavilion	<u>July 25th</u>	United Methodist Men's Breakfast
<u>July 28th</u>	Yoga Class		

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Michael Brown	08
Tom Eason	09
Barb Lytle	09
Jeffery Mullen	09
Gene Aucott	11
Janis Schrader	13
David Black	15



Ann Figueroa	15
Joan Saller	15
Brady Castaldi	18
Jacob Rinehimer	21
Nate Howard	29
Scott Steele	29
Mya Ditzel	31

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

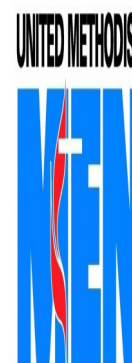
Fourth Saturday of each Month, 8:00 -9:30 am.

Next meeting is July 25th

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)



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>

ASK THE UMC!

Your questions, answered.
Explore the online library, live chat or email us.

← [LEARN MORE](#)



West Grove United Methodist Church

~ Encounter ~ Empower ~ Engage ~

July 2026



**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 or call the office at 610-869-9334. She will be happy to add you to the list!

~ Encounter ~ Empower ~ Engage ~

At West Grove UMC, we love God by encouraging Our community to be followers of Christ..

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

Staff

Rev. DJ Choi, Lead Pastor,
pastor@westgroveumc.org

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

Mark Rome - Youth Director
youthdirector@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—Sexton
sexton@westgroveumc.org

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

Christ Servant Ministers

Mike DuVall, mwduvall@aol.com
Dan Elliot, Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org

Board and Committee Leadership

Dick Stuhrke - Chair Vision Team (Ad. Council)
Dan Elliott Financial Administrator, Chair of the Finance Committee.
Priscilla Barkman - Trustee Chair
Open - Treasurer
Joan Leaman, Financial Secretary
Cindy Hoover - SPRC Chair
DJ Choir - Missions Chair
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
Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator
Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator
Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator
Cindy Hoover — CMO Advisory Board Chair
Sandy Pardoe — R.A.P Coordinator