

2026 Sermon on the Mount

T H E L I F E O F B L E S S E D

Beloved Siblings of West Grove United Methodist Church,

The things we are experiencing today are so extraordinary—astonishing, bewildering, and even bleak—that they are unprecedented. As you look at this world, what thoughts and feelings come to you?

Let us not forget that we are not merely ordinary citizens. We are the church that the Lord has called and gathered together. We do not place our hope in this world. Yet, following the example of Jesus, who loved this world, we have gathered here with the mission to bear witness to the gospel. We cannot help but wrestle with how we should continue to carry out the church's mission in this world.

From August 2nd through September 6th, over the course of six weeks, we will explore what the Sermon on the Mount is saying to us as we live in today's world of 2026. I pray that this will be a time filled with the Lord's grace for all of us together.

In Him, Lead Pastor DongJin Choi

The Sermon On the Mount 2026

Aug. 2nd Blessed Are... Matthew 5:1-20

Aug. 9th But I say to You about... Part 1 Matthew 5:21-32

Aug. 16th But I say to You about... Part 2 Matthew 5:33-48

Aug. 23rd Truly I say to You... Matthew 6:1-18

Aug. 30th See Ye First... Matthew 6:19-34

Sept. 6th Christians Life is... Matthew 7:1-14

Dear West Grove United Methodist Church Members,

Through the Special Charge Conference on July 5th, West Grove United Methodist Church transitioned to a new administrative structure, the One Board. Additionally, nine church committee members were approved. Their names are as follows:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Dan Elliott | ☐ Dick Stuhrke |
| ☐ Paulette Bryan | ☐ Cindy Hoover |
| ☐ Shirley Daddario | ☐ Chris Bruno |
| ☐ John Gambill | ☐ Peter Mullen |
| ☐ Mark Simmons | |

For many years, the United Methodist Church operated with multiple separate committees — Trustees, Finance, and SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) — each meeting independently, often resulting in duplicated efforts and isolated decision-making. While this structure was traditional, it sometimes slowed decision-making and made it difficult to see the full picture of the church's needs and direction.

The One Board model streamlines this process by bringing together a single, unified body responsible for the church's overall administration, finances, staffing, and property. This allows for clearer communication, faster and more thoughtful decision-making, and a shared sense of vision and accountability among leadership. It also reduces the burden on volunteers, allowing more members to focus their time and energy on ministry and mission rather than administrative meetings.

Given our church's current size, we simply do not have enough people to fill all of these separate committees. As a result, the same individuals often ended up serving for a decade or more, leading to spiritual burnout and an unhealthy pattern of ministry.

Ultimately, this change reflects our desire to become a more nimble, more unified, and more Spirit-led church as we seek to fulfill God's calling for West Grove United Methodist Church in this new season.

Going forward, these individuals will fulfill the roles of the Finance, SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee), and Trustees committees, serving as the church's final decision-making body. They will each serve three-year terms, with three new members added and three members retiring each year.

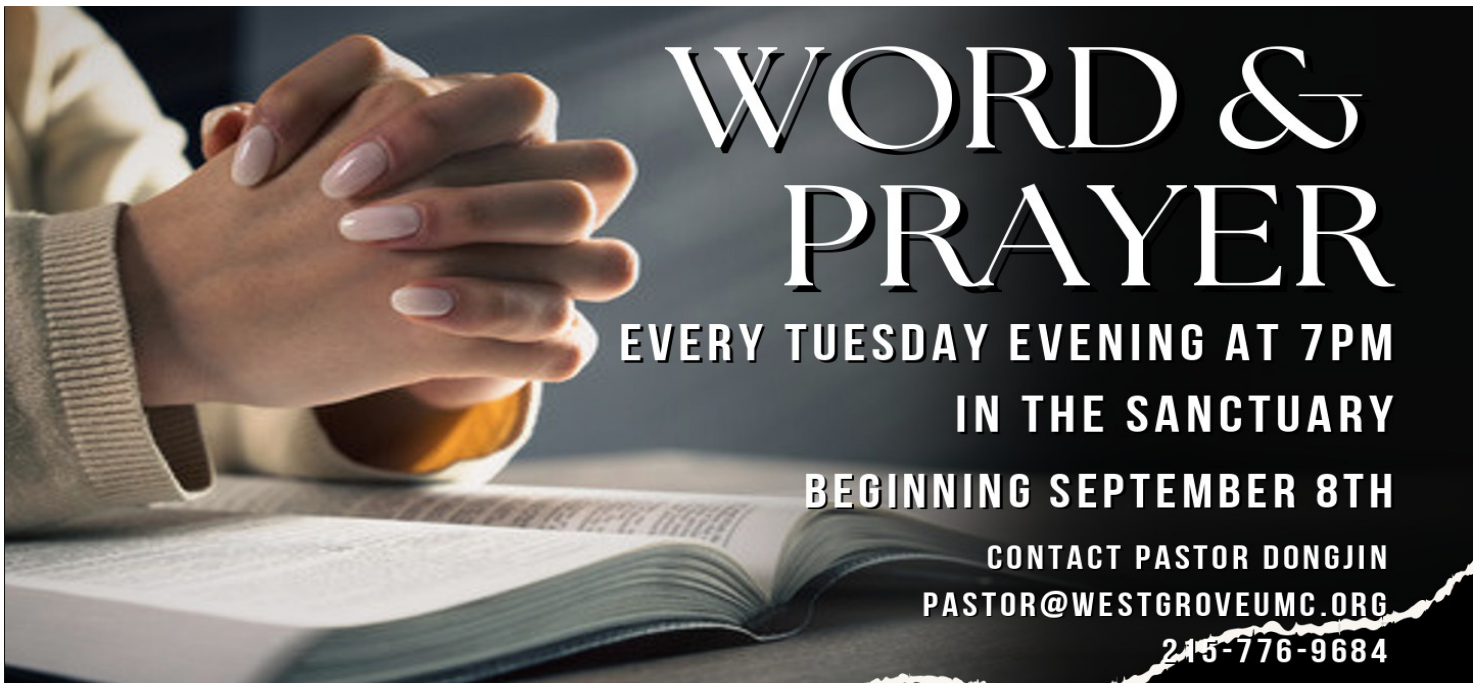
Along with these nine, the senior pastor (myself), the associate pastor, the treasurer, the financial secretary, the lay leader, and the annual conference representative will regularly meet together in an ex-officio capacity. However, decision-making authority belongs solely to the nine members you have elected.

Please pray that these nine will discern God's will and, led by the Holy Spirit, make decisions and lead the church's affairs faithfully and spiritually. I also ask that each of you keep a heart ready to serve, should you one day be nominated as well.

In Christ,

Lead Pastor DongJin Choi

August 1, 2026



**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28**

Our daily lives are often consumed by busyness. As we chase endless to-do lists, we can easily miss out on the "true rest" our souls deeply yearn for.

This is why I have decided to intentionally set aside time and space for a new weekly gathering called "WORD & PRAYER." Everyone is invited and warmly welcomed.

This gathering is neither grand nor formal. It is simply a humble space where we can quietly reflect on our lives before the Word and hold hands to pray for one another. Within this shared time, we hope to experience these graces together:

- Rest: Quiet the noise of the world, listen closely to the gentle whisper of the Lord, and restore the breath of our souls.
- Honesty (Sincere Sharing): A safe, comfortable space where even our deepest, hidden pains and vulnerabilities are embraced just as they are.
- Comfort (Consolation & Encouragement): A time to realize we do not walk this path alone, experiencing God's profound comfort through the prayers of our community.

We do not gather because we have time to spare; rather, we gather by intentionally prioritizing precious time for intimacy with God and love for our fellow believers.

I invite you to join me in this step of faith. With a joyful heart, we are waiting for you in this place where your weary soul will be warmly embraced.

In Christ, Lead Pastor
DongJin Choi



AUGUST SCRIPTURE ON STEWARDSHIP

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus teaches that faithful stewardship means using wisely the gifts and resources God has entrusted to us.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

**EVERY
THURSDAY**

6:30 PM

**JOURNEY BEGINS
ON SEPTEMBER 10**

**CONTACT PASTOR DONGJIN CHOI
EMAIL: PASTOR@WESTGROVEUMC.ORG**

"I invite you all to Thursday Bible Study." This fall, we will be studying Genesis. Our journey begins on September 10th.



RUMMAGE SALE IS OCTOBER 2ND 3RD.

It's time to think about the UWF Fall Rummage Sale.

"No," you say. "It's only August. There's another month and a half of summer!
You're rushing things, aren't you?"

Believe me, at my age I don't like to rush anything. But I also know Oct. 2nd and 3rd will be here before we know it. So please, mark your calendars and set aside some time to help with set up on September 28th to October 1st and/or help with the sale and cleanup October 2nd and 3rd.

And, if you're looking for a way to live more simply, take a look around for some items you no longer use or need. The Rummage Sale thrives because of the many donations of gently used clothing, accessories, jewelry, home goods, small pieces of furniture, patio/gardening items, games, puzzles, toys, books, craft supplies, holiday decorations, etc.

You've been so generous in the past. Thank you for all you do and have done!

All proceeds from the sale are shared with many organizations in our community and throughout the world.

Children's Morning Out —(CMO) - News



In the blink of an eye our Children's Morning Out program will be welcoming their students back to class!

The teachers begin readying their classrooms beginning **Monday, August 31st** and "**Meet the Teacher**" day is **Thursday, September 3rd at 11:00 am.**

Followed by the first day of school on **Tuesday, September 8th.**

Look for September's Newsletter article for the latest on what's going on with the kids!

DOUGLAS CONNELLY

FOLLOWING JESUS



Over
15 Million
LifeGuides
Sold

8 STUDIES FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

An 8-week Bible study will begin on **Tuesday, September 8th at 2:15 pm.**

The group will meet in the church library and will follow a discussion centered format around the study booklet, **“Following Jesus,”** by Douglas Connelly.

The meetings will be led by Carol McGinley and Debbie & Jake Schneider.

If you're interested in attending, please sign the sheet on the wall in the lobby or contact Jake & Debbie at tbones7@comcast.net or Carol at cmcginley@zoominternet.net.

All are welcome! Please come join us!



HOOKS NEEDLES AND KNOTS, OH MY



You are Invited! Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, and laughing? Then the knitting/crocheting group welcomes you!

Join us for a warm and friendly time of fellowship as we stitch, chat, and occasionally untangle yarn that has somehow made a knot. From experienced knitters to beginners bring your needles, hooks, questions, and a sense of humor. Our yarn has been donated!

Our group (or Circle) is part of the international United Women in Faith. Our mission is to reach out to the women, youth, and children with hats, gloves, scarfs, and much more. We create handmade items for comfort, care, and community outreach.

When: Every 1st and 3rd Friday

Where: Conference Room

Questions? Contact: Shirley D.addario at: shirleydad@verizon.net

So, grab your yarn, bring a friend, and join us as we stitch together, have laughter, fellowship, and a few imperfect knots!

Shirley Daddario Pres. United Women in Faith
Cindy Hoover, Vice Pres.
Sharon Nesbit, Treasurer
Paulette Bryan, Secretary

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 — August 3rd and 17th at 10:30 am 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.



Yoga Classes - We Would Love to See YOU!



Every Tuesday afternoon, our church welcomes all to participate in Chair Yoga, a gentle form of exercise designed for all ages and abilities. Led by Julissa, a certified yoga instructor from the YMCA, these sessions offer a wonderful opportunity to relax, stretch, and connect with each other.



Chair Yoga is perfect for anyone seeking to improve flexibility, reduce stress, or simply enjoy a peaceful break during the week. Our final summer session is August 4th after which Julissa will be taking a short summer break. Sessions will begin again on **September 1st, from 1:30 PM to 2:15 PM.**

No prior experience or registration, just show up. Bring a friend along and experience the benefits of gentle movement and fellowship every Tuesday!



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!



United Women of Faith

Do you notice all those smiles?

Not only do UWF attendees have fun when we gather but we also enjoy serving our community.

From Hooks, Needles and Knots, Oh My, Yoga Classes, the Craft and Chat Circle, the advent bags, college cards to the bi-annual Rummage Sale, these are ladies of passion and purpose.

Watch for our meetings and events then join in on the fun for a reason!

Hello Craft and Chat Circle!!

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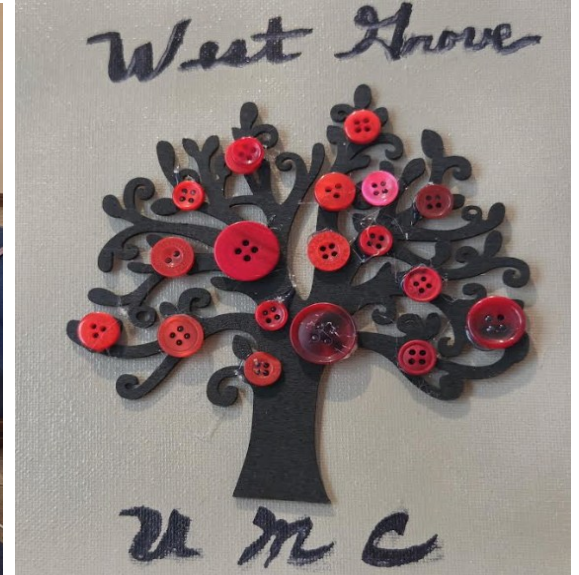
What a glorious day it is today!!!! The **CRAFT AND CHAT CIRCLE** met on Sunday, July 19th. What a great turnout! We had a total of 15 crafters! Three of which were attending for their first time! It was great seeing everyone.

Such a wonderful group of ladies. We made an 8 x 8 canvas with a tree on it. It is always amazing, everyone has the same supplies, but they are all so different.

We collected 37 boxes of spaghetti for the food pantry. Way to go ladies.

On Sunday, August 16th at 1:30, we will be making greeting cards for the college students, advent baskets, and a few for ourselves.

Come and enjoy an afternoon with some very crafty ladies.



Food Pantry

West Grove UMC Food Pantry

Weekly Hours:

Wednesday: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

Food Pantry Update

July was a very busy month as we had to re-register all our neighbors. Then, the last Thursday of the month, we needed to work around the HBO filming crew that used our parking lot and building as a base for the filming they did in the West Grove area. Although everything went very smoothly,, we look forward to getting back to our typical distributions in August.

We had five new youth volunteer sduring the month of July. It is great in the summer when school is not in session and their schedules get freed up. Thanks Paddy, Ever, Envee, Colton and Austin!

The special collection for the month of August is **cooking oil**. We are specifically asking for small bottles of oil so we can distribute it to as many families as possible.

16 oz. bottles is a great size.

Thank you.



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.

**HIKE DATES - August 17th
September 21st**

Sign up sheet located in the narthex.

RAP NEWS

Calling all

Retired Active People!!!!

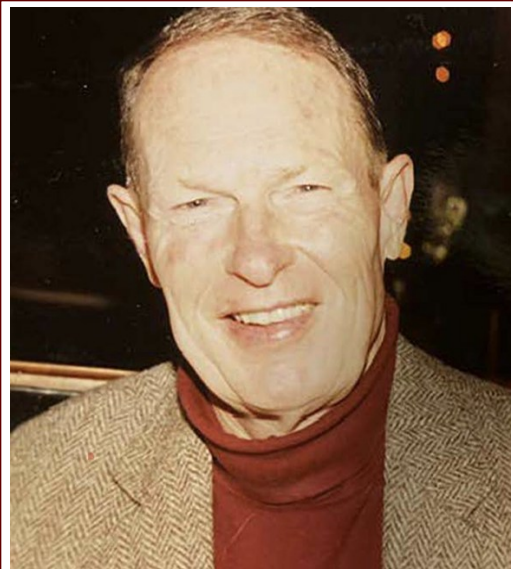
The RAP committee is gearing up for our return on **Friday, September 11th at noon**. Our first program of the season will be with Diane Albertson a story teller from the Lancaster area.

Save the date!!

You won't want to miss all the
FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.
See you in September!!!!

It's story
TIME



CELBRATION OF LIFE HONORING ROGER BATES

On August 8th beginning at noon we will honor Roger who was an active, long time member of our church.

The service will begin promptly at Noon followed by a light lunch.

During and after lunch we are encouraging you to share your fond memories and photos of Roger.

We will be sharing photo's of Roger's life both here at WGUMC and with his family.

Come, join us in remembering a truly wonderful man.

SIGN UP TO WATER OUR BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS

Check out the sign up sheet in the narthex and sign up to help keep WGUMC beautiful!

There are still plenty of dates in August and September available.

Sign up today!!!!



DIVORCE CARE

OUR DIVORCE CARE GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN AUGUST BUT WE WILL BEGIN OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 2ND AT 6:30 PM. PLEASE DON 'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO MARY ALICE MILLER AT MARYALICEKMILLER@GMAIL.COM WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

Upcoming Dates to Remember For August

<u>August 2nd</u>	Former Committee Members Meeting	<u>August 4th</u>	Yoga Class
<u>August 7th</u>	Hooks, Needles & Knots	<u>August 8th</u>	Roger Bates Celebration of Life
<u>August 10th</u>	Just Sing	<u>August 16th</u>	Crafts and Chat Circle
<u>August 17th</u>	Hike and Ice Cream	<u>August 21st</u>	Hooks, Needles & Knots
<u>August 22nd</u>	United Methodist Men's Breakfast	<u>August 24th</u>	Just Sing



TWIN PINES BINGO FOR THE RESIDENTS

HELP US HELP THE RESIDENT'S OF TWIN PINES HAVE FUN PLAYING BINGO.

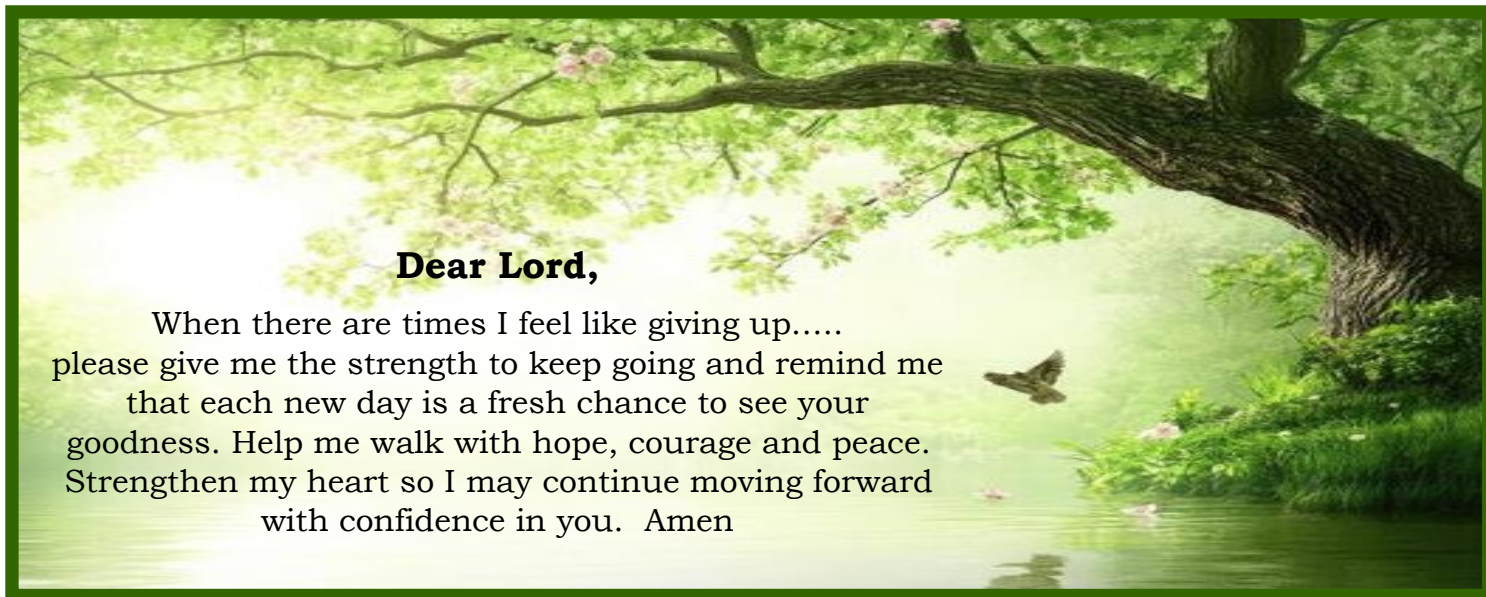
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18TH AT 2:00 PM.

SIGN UP ON THE SIGN UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 610-869-9334 OR EMAIL OFFICE@WESTGROVEUMC.ORG

Dear Lord,

When there are times I feel like giving up.....
 please give me the strength to keep going and remind me
 that each new day is a fresh chance to see your
 goodness. Help me walk with hope, courage and peace.
 Strengthen my heart so I may continue moving forward
 with confidence in you. Amen



ADVENTURE AWAITS!

LET'S GO HIKING

LET'S MARVEL AT GOD'S CREATION
TOGETHER AT RICKETTS GLEN STATE
PARK, HOME TO MANY BEAUTIFUL
WATERFALLS.

AUG
29

SATURDAY
9AM



Contact pastor DJ Choi for more information
215-776-9684 or pastor@westgroveumc.org



Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We write with grateful hearts to share an update from our ministry in Morogoro, Tanzania. We thank God for His faithfulness and for the many ways He continues to bless the work here through your prayers, encouragement, and generous support. Because of your partnership, the ministry continues to bring hope, education, healing, and spiritual growth to many people in our community.

We are especially thankful that the projects God has placed in our hands continue to move forward well. Although Missionary Umba has officially retired, we are grateful that he continues to stand alongside Missionary Ngoy by offering support, wisdom, and help with the ongoing projects. His continued involvement has been a true blessing, and together we rejoice in the way God is sustaining our ministry.

One of the great joys of this year has been the continued work of the Morogoro Pastor's Training School, which remains an important place for raising up church leaders for the future of the church in Tanzania. We are thankful to report that at the 2026 Tanzania Annual Conference, three students from the Morogoro Pastor's Training School were ordained as deacons.



Umba teaching student pastors

At the Suzannah Wesley Polyclinic, the ministry of healing and hope also continues. The polyclinic remains a vital source of care for the community, and we are thankful that most health services are now being provided. Through this work, many families are receiving care that is both practical and life-giving. We are especially grateful that the surgery ward is now in its final stage of construction. This is a major step forward for the polyclinic and for the wider community.



Once completed, the ward will expand the level of care we can offer and will make a significant difference for patients who need surgical treatment close to home. As we prepare for this next phase, we will soon be in need of surgical equipment to fully equip the ward for use.

As we reflect on all that God has done, our hearts are full of gratitude. Thank you for standing with us in prayer, in love, and in support. Your partnership is helping to train church leaders, strengthen young people in their faith, empower women, and bring healing to the sick. We praise God for each one of you and for the role you play in our ministry.

Bishop Koi Koi of Greater New Jersey Annual Conference dedicating the Suzannah Wesley Polyclinic



United Women Center building

The picture on the right shows the cutting the ribbon at the dedication of the United Women Center - a joyful moment celebrating hope, empowerment, and God's faithfulness.

We also celebrate with joy the dedication of the United Women Center in May this year. It was a meaningful and successful occasion, and we give thanks to God for bringing this vision to life. The center stands as a sign of hope and empowerment, especially for women in the community, and we are excited for the ways it will continue to be used in ministry and service.



Our Prayer Requests:

Please join us in prayer for:

- The Morogoro Pastor's School and the 16 student pastors in training,
- The newly ordained deacons as they begin this new chapter of ministry,
- The ministry of the United Women Center,
- The continued work of the Suzannah Wesley Polyclinic,
- The provision of the surgical equipment needed for the new surgery ward.

May the Lord bless you richly for your generosity and faithfulness.

With gratitude in Christ,
Ngoy and Umba

To support Ngoy's projects and salary, please make a check payable to ADVANCE GCFA. Write Ngoy or the project name and the Advance number on the memo line of your check. Then mail your check to: Advance GCFA P.O. Box 9068 New York, NY 10087.

You can also give online by going to: <https://umcmmission.org/about-the-advance/>

Our advance numbers are as follow:

Ngoy – Advance# 15162Z

Morogoro Pastors Training School – Advance# 3022261

Wesley Primary School – Advance# 3020704

Susannah Wesley Education and Health Center – Advance # 3020705

For questions, please reach out to us at one of the following emails:

umbakalangwa@gmail.com or nkalangwa@umcmmission.org

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jeannie Sullivan	06
Casey Bruno	08
David Frame	09
Sharon Nesbitt	11
Doyle Stuhrke	12
Lianne Covington	15
Mason Hendrickson	15



Reed Smith	16
Paulette Bryan	23
Bob Castaldi	27
Jennifer Smith	28
Peggy Watkins	28
Tim Owens	29
Sara Ann Ramberger	30

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 August 22nd

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>





**WEST
GROVE**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

~ Encounter ~ Empower ~ Engage ~

**AUGUST
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.*



**WEST
GROVE**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**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

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.
Mark Simonds - 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