



West Grove
United Methodist Church
Pastor DJ Choi

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

“Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?”

Matthew 20:22

Are you observing a meaningful Lent? Lent is a season to reflect on our choices, the life of Jesus, and the Way of the Cross. Are you truly living the life of Jesus? Are you choosing the cross in your own life—or do you feel you aren't quite there yet?

This is a common struggle for many Christians: the choice between following Jesus superficially or committing to a life of true transformation. To address this, I would like to spend the three weeks leading up to Easter meditating on a book by my favorite author, Henri Nouwen.

In his book, **“Can You Drink the Cup?”**, Nouwen explores the very question Jesus asked His disciples. This spiritual guide is divided into three parts, examining what it means to **hold, lift, and drink** the “cup” of both sorrow and joy.

To be honest, even just “holding” the life Jesus taught can be difficult. Nouwen asks how we can acknowledge, accept, and eventually drink the “cup” of our daily sufferings and challenges. Our lives—our cups—represent the journey of a “wounded healer”. **Holding the cup** means acknowledging our reality. **Lifting the cup** means raising it in gratitude. **Drinking the cup** means fully participating in the ministry of Jesus.

Through this consistent spiritual discipline, we are refined into mature and steadfast Christians. Throughout this sermon series, I hope we encounter the Risen Lord together. Let us meditate on the cup Jesus drank and prepare to welcome Easter with genuine joy and praise.

Lead Pastor DongJin Choi

Lenten Series: “Can You Drink the Cup?” by Henri Nouwen

March 22nd - Holding the Cup Mark 10:35-45

March 29th - Lifting the Cup 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

April 5th - Drinking the Cup Psalm 116:5-13

PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN

Pastor Jim's Christian Living Column

March 2026

Once-for-All Love: Finding Hope in Christ's Sacrifice



Hebrews 9:11-12 (NIV):

¹¹ But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.”

When we read these verses, they might sound “churchy” or distant — but what they’re really talking about is our lives forever. The author of Hebrews is helping us see Jesus not as someone who died long ago, but as the One whose death and resurrection changed everything for us.

In the Old Testament, God established a sacrificial system for His people. Priests would offer animals again and again, year after year, to atone for sin. But no matter how many sacrifices were made, they could never fully take sin away — they only pointed ahead to something greater.

But then Jesus came. He didn’t offer the blood of goats or calves — He offered His own blood. Not as a temporary fix. Not something repeated year after year. One sacrifice, one lifetime, once for all. This wasn’t just another ritual. This was God Himself intervening in our broken world to make a way back to Him.

The phrase “once and for all” matters. It means Jesus’ sacrifice wasn’t “good for now” — it was eternal. He entered into the true heavenly reality — into God’s own presence — not to offer a symbol of forgiveness, but to secure it forever for everyone who trusts in Him. Jesus paid it all — completely and finally for us.

But the story doesn’t stop with Jesus’ death. Because of who He is, and because of what He did, death could not hold Him. His Resurrection is God’s ultimate “Amen” — a divine affirmation that sin truly was defeated and that death truly is not the last word for us.

The cross shows His love for us — willing to suffer and die so that we might live. The empty tomb shows His power for us — rising in glory so that we might share in new, eternal life.

As we walk through this Lenten season toward Easter, may we take time to dwell on this reality: Jesus didn’t go halfway. He went all the way — to the Cross and into His glory — so that we could be redeemed forever.

Let this truth sink in for us this Lent: We are loved more deeply than we know, forgiven completely, and held by God who conquered death so that we will live.

Pastor Jim



March Bible Verse - Giving

This past January the Finance Team, under the dedicated leadership of Dan Elliott introduced the “Bible Verse of the Month”. The Bible is chock full of God’s wisdom. It’s up to us to search, learn and apply. Whereas the weekly meditative scripture is designed to cover a broad range of God’s teachings, this monthly verse will focus on what the Bible specifically says about giving.

To recap, our verse for January was taken from the book of James, chapter 1 vs 17:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, And cometh down from the Father of lights, With whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning”

This verse teaches that a right attitude toward giving begins with the simple but profound truth that everything we have comes from God who never changes. The verse for February came from Proverbs chapter 3 vs 9:

“Honor the Lord with thy substance, And with the first fruits of thine increase”

This verse is not a command to give nor does it tell us what to give. It states the simple truth that giving done with a heart of generosity is an act of worship that draws us closer to Him. Our verse for the month of March is found in 2 Corinthians chapter 8 vs 7:

“Now as you excel in everything – in Faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your Love for us, see that you excel in this gracious work also”

In the verses leading up to this particular verse, Paul tells the Corinthians how the grace of God is working in the churches in Macedonia. By most metrics be it wealth, preaching, teaching, knowledge, numbers, the Macedonian churches were not nearly as well off as the churches in Corinth. Yet, in spite of their poverty and their problems, they gave liberally, beyond their means in support of the work of the saints in spreading the Gospel of Christ. Paul is telling the Corinthians that giving generously is a reflection of God’s grace and because of their many blessings he expects them, like the Macedonians, to respond accordingly and by extension we should let the grace of God shine in us and do likewise.

Looking ahead, the Bible verse for April will be taken again from 2 Corinthians this time chapter 9 vs 7, where Paul famously states that God loves a cheerful giver. You had to know that we would get to that verse sooner or later. Anyway, we hope you find this monthly exercise helpful as together we explore what the Bible has to say about giving.

Community Garden

Spring is just around the corner and now is the time to start planning for our community garden.

This is a garden in which all are invited to share. We all have different amounts of time and talents, but here are some ways you can participate.

Garden prep - we always need folks to plant, weed and mulch.

Garden maintenance - we always need help watering, especially new plantings and during times of drought.

Harvesting - this is the fun part. People are always needed to help pick the ripe vegetables. You are welcome to pick the vegetables for yourself, your family, pick them for friends and neighbors in need or pick them to help support our food pantry.

Providing supplies - we are always grateful for donations of needed supplies or for money to be used toward the purchase off these needed supplies.

Wish list

T-posts (approximately 16-20)

Fence wire

Top soil

Digging pitchfork

Trowel

Garden rake

Hoe

If you are able to help this ministry in any way, please contact -The church office at office@westgroveumc.org or Judy Gambill at jlg456@epix.net.



Meals from Angels

This is a wonderful way to be the hands and feet of God in helping care for one another. Right now we have a committed group of women (men are more than welcome to participate as well).

Our goal is to provide meals for people and or families who could use a little short term help due to circumstances such as injury, illness or hospitalization. Last year we provided more than 70 meals. We are hoping you will want to join us in this enriching and fulfilling ministry.

Please contact the church office at office@westgroveumc.org or Judy Gambill at jlg456@epix.net

YOUTH MINISTRY

Starting on Sunday, March 1st

the youth will have several meeting opportunities on Sundays!
Of course youth are encouraged to attend the service at 9:27 am every Sunday.
In addition we will have a sermon discussion/bible study at 11:00 am,
following the service.

On Sunday evenings we will have a youth group meeting at 5:00 pm.
The event/meeting is a time for fellowship and fun.

Come out to one or all of the events on Sundays starting this Sunday, March 1st!
Contact Mark Rome, Youth Director at: youthdirector@westgroveumc.org with questions or for more information.

The staff at WGUMC would like to **thank all of you** for your generous gift during the holidays. Pastor DJ, Pastor Jim, Betsy Smith, April Spencer, Bill Pardoe, Abbie Gruscavage and Maira Tena are truly appreciative of your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Children's Morning Out —(CMO) - News

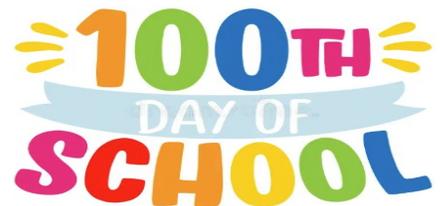
It's so hard to believe that the month of February has already come and gone! February was a very busy, although short, month here at school.

This past month we have focused on learning about weather, starting with a lesson from Punxsutawney Phil. We weren't happy with his prediction - about 6 more weeks of winter, but I suppose he was right, since we got even more snow this month!



We celebrated Valentine's Day by exchanging valentines cards with our friends, we had classroom parties and we learned all about friendship and kindness.

Our PreK students finished out the month celebrating our 100th day of school! It has been a busy month for sure!



Looking ahead, we are ready for some warmer, spring weather. We are really hoping we are able to get out of the Sanctuary and to the playground to play outside soon. We all have a case of cabin fever for sure!

We still have some room in our PreK classes as well as our Tuesday/Thursday 2 and 3 year old classes for next year. Please help spread the word to anyone you know who is looking for a preschool!

All the best, Abbie



Saturday, March 7th from 8:30am - 12:30pm.

At Palmer Theological Seminary at Eastern University, 1300 Eagle Rd Wayne, PA 19087, McInnis Building

Registration fee: \$15 - online registration only No on-site registration will be taken.

(WGUMC will pay the registration fee. Car pooling available if needed. Contact Pastor DJ at pastor@westgroveumc.org for more details)

Registration will be close on Wed. March 4th at midnight. Coffee and Breakfast snacks will be available.

Schedule for the Day:

Registration: 8:30 AM- 9:00 AM - Welcome & Devotions: 9:00 AM- 9:15 AM

Session 1: - 9:15 AM-10:45 AM - Break: 10:45-11:00 AM Session 2: - 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

*** * Please choose 2 different sessions* ***

90 min classes offered on the below:

"BRIDGES: Cultivating Curiosity & Community through Intergenerational Ministry" with Ashley Wilson

"Calling All Lay Leaders 4.0" with Co-Lay Leaders Frances Whittington & Jennifer Lafferty

"Caregiver Self Care & Mental Health" with Dr. Diana McNeil

"The Cutting Edge: Using AI Effectively and Ethically to Enhance Ministry" with Mr. Harry Szymiest

"Effective Cross Racial/Cross Cultural Ministry in 2026" with Shawn Mack & Dennis Fisher

"Immigration & Social Justice as Ministry" with Rev. Mark Salvacion

"The Importance Church Auditing" with Pastor John Lafferty and Ms. Carol Barnes -

"Orientation to Ministry" with Deaconess Darlene DiDomineck

"Reimagining Your Church Space" with Rev. Jim Anderman

"Why Faithful Churches Feel Stuck" with Pastor Mike Nelson

HOOKS, NEEDLES & KNOTS. OH MY!

Are you ready to go down the yellow brick road? Join our church knitting/crocheting group, where dropping a stitch is no big deal and laughter is always in the air. Whether you're a seasoned yarn wizard or not, everyone is welcome! Come for the knitting, stay for the fellowship—and don't worry, we promise not to judge your tangled yarn or your "knotty" jokes! We meet every first and third Friday from 9:30 to 11:30. Next gathering is Friday, March 6th. Yarn has been donated. This is a group formed from United Women in Faith and anyone is invited, bring a friend. Contact Shirley Daddario at shirleydad@verizon.net with questions.





Weekly Hours:

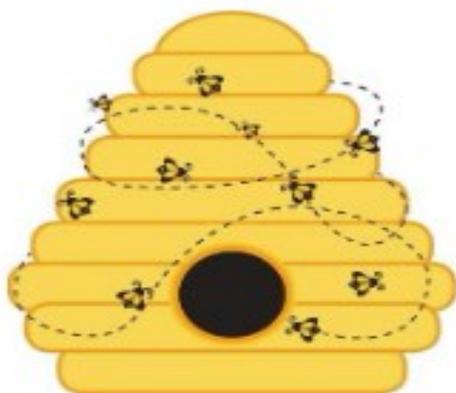
Wednesday: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

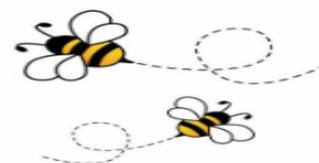
FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

February was another busy month at our church food pantry. We continue to average about 110 families each week, which means we provide food to approximately 400 individuals on a weekly basis.

Our item for the month of March is liquid dish detergent. When you are shopping, if you could pick up an extra bottle or two of detergent, it would be most appreciated. You can leave the bottles of detergent in the shopping cart outside the lobby doors, in the lobby in the designated black bin or on the table in the food pantry room. Your generosity never goes unnoticed!



RAP



Have you ever wondered what all the BUZZ is about at our RAP luncheons? The upcoming luncheon is going to be the place to BEEEEEE!



Friday March 13th at noon is going to BEE an amazing afternoon as we learn about the plight of the HONEYBEE.

Beth Tumas of Aristos Harvest Farm and Apiary will be joining us.

She will BEE sharing her knowledge about the honeybee, and it's amazing adaptability, and how we can work together to create a better landscape for its survival. So bring your lunch, and join us for an afternoon that will BEEEEEE filled with food, fun, and fellowship. Beverages and desserts will be provided



Help Us Create Our New Church Logo!

We are looking for a new face for our church—a new logo! To help us capture our identity, please write down keywords that describe the image and character our church strives for.

Please post your keywords on the board with a “Post-It” note, here in the lobby, or share them with me via email. Your input will be a great help in designing our new logo!





United Women in Faith Announce A New Small Group

United Women in Faith New Craft Group

Church Ladies Group Starting! We are excited to announce the creation of a craft group for women at our church. This group is open to all ladies who are interested in exploring their creativity while building meaningful connections with one another.

The group will discuss how to serve through the United Women in Faith (UWF) who's mission is to help all women, children and youth. For example, cards for college kids, Christmas cards for advent bag recipients and more. If you would like to be part of this new group, please come to the meeting on March 22nd, Sunday, at 1:30 in the narthex. We'll gather to share ideas about serving, decide when and where to meet, and choose a name for the group. All interested ladies are welcome!



We Would Love to See YOU!

Chair Yoga sessions are held every Tuesday at 1:30 PM until 2:15 pm. Julissa, our instructor, is a certified yoga teacher who teaches at the YMCA. Feel free to bring a friend and enjoy some relaxation and fellowship together! Just come, no sign up necessary.



Rummage Sale is SOON!! Save Your Stuff!

Get ready for United Women in Faith's upcoming **RUMMAGE SALE!** Now is the perfect time to start gathering any new or gently used items you no longer need.

Hold on to your treasures and drop off anytime from Sunday, April 27th, after the worship service, until Thursday, April 30th during office hours. Tell your neighbors to save their treasures for the sale. Items such as books, gently used clothes, housewares, small furniture, purses, jewelry etc. are accepted.

Mark your calendar for the sale on Friday, May 1st and Saturday May 2nd. Help make our sale a success and support our community!

DID YOU KNOW?

Rummage proceeds go to: Community New Garment Assoc., Bridge of Hope, Mighty Writers, Family Promise, The Oaks Ministry, Orphan Train Ministry, Camp Innabah Scholarships, UMCOR Ngoy Kalangwa Women's Ministry, UMCOR Disaster Relief, WGUMC VBS, CMO Scholarships and our Food Pantry

SPRING RETREAT

Hearts Awake

Living a faith that listens deeply and responds boldly



WHAT TO EXPECT

- Spiritual Reflection
- Thoughtful Discussion
- Encouragement and Renewal
- Continental Breakfast
- Free Event - For Women of All Ages
- If able, please bring diapers (size 4, 5, or 6), wipes, or vinal wipes for donation to The Care Center Foundation.

GUEST SPEAKER
PASTOR
JILL LAUFENBERG
Church of the Loving Shepherd



SATURDAY
MARCH 14, 2026

From 8:30 AM - 12:00 Noon



United Women in Faith

United Women of Faith UMCWC
 129 S High St - Fiesta Center
 West Chester, PA 19382



FOR MORE INFORMATION: umcwcuwf@gmail.com 129 S High St, West Chester, PA

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

BEGINS:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th

CONTACT:

MARYALICE MILLER AT
maryalicekmiller@gmail.com



What is UMCOR? United Methodist Committee on Relief. Founded in 1940, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian relief organization of The United Methodist Church. A part of Global Ministries, UMCOR works in more than 70 countries worldwide, including the United States in the areas of disaster relief and recovery, migrant and refugee support, environmental sustainability, agriculture and food security. The organization's mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering for all people.

UMCOR is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization operated under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries. Administrative expenses are funded by an annual offering collected by United Methodist churches on UMCOR Sunday making possible 100% of donations to be directed to the cause and purpose of UMCOR. To learn more, go to: <https://umcmmission.org>

UMCOR will be the vocal point of our Ministry Moment on Sunday, March 29th.



We are looking to create a new logo for WGUM Church.

We invite those with a background or expertise in graphic design to join us in this project.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor DJ at:

pastor@westgroveumc.org

*** * * COMING IN MARCH * * ***

Upcoming Dates to Remember For March

March 2nd **Pastor Jim's Bible Study**

March 4th **Divorce Group Meeting**

March 8th **Daylight Savings Time**

March 10th **Yoga Class**

March 13th **RAP**

March 17th **Yoga Class**

March 22nd **United Women of Faith Craft Group**

March 24th **Yoga Class**

March 28th **United Methodist Men's Breakfast**

March 30th **Pastor Jim's Bible Study**

March 3rd **Yoga Class/Tuesday Bible Study**

March 5th **Pastor DJ's Bible Study**

March 9th **Pastor Jim's Bible Study**

March 12th **Pastor DJ's Bible Study**

March 16th **Pastor Jim's Bible Study**

March 19th **Pastor DJ's Bible Study**

March 23rd **Pastor Jim's Bible Study**

March 26th **Pastor DJ's Bible Study**

March 29th **Palm Sunday Cantata**

March 31st **Yoga Class**

Winter Jam 2026

With Chris Tomlin, Matthew West, Katy Nichole, Hulvey, Disciple, Emerson Day, Newsong and Speaker Zane Black



Winter Jam 2026 brings together some of the biggest names in Christian music for an unforgettable night. This year's lineup features Chris Tomlin, Matthew West, Katy Nichole, Hulvey, Disciple, Emerson Day, Newsong, and speaker Zane Black, with a Pre-Jam Party featuring Jeremy Rosado, Heath Brothers, and Cliff Preston. With no tickets required and only a \$15 donation at the door, it's a night you won't want to miss!

Enjoy an evening of Christian entertainment with your Church Friends!
Enter your name on the sign up sheet and see who is going so you can carpool together.

Date: Saturday March 28th, 2026

Time: Doors Open at 5 PM Event Starts at 6 PM

Where: Penn State's Bryce Jordan Center 720 Curtin Rd, State College, PA 16801

Parking: Go Online to Purchase a Parking Pass at

<https://bjc.psu.edu/winter-jam-2026>

Questions Contact Andrew Herman: hermanandrew@yahoo.com

Fifth Sunday Coin Collection at WGUMC

On Sunday, March 29th, our church will be collecting a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We invite all to prayerfully consider donating above and beyond your regular giving.

Your generosity will help UMCOR reach those affected by natural disasters, health crises, and other emergencies.

This collection will be separate from your regular giving, ushers will be passing a specially made world globe collection bowl to drop your coins, or paper, or checks into.. If donating by check please write in the memo: UMCOR 5th Sunday.

Together, let us show compassion and solidarity by supporting UMCOR's vital mission. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and commitment to serving others in Christ's name.

Praising God for every gift, no matter the size, making a meaningful difference!



BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

3/01 Edel Mullen

3/02 Kay Warfel

3/10 Linda Shiplet

3/11 Colton McCummings

3/13 Duane Bruno

3/13 Dick Stuhrke

3/14 Erik Hendrickson



3/21 Michael DuVall

3/21 Maira Tena

3/23 Pam Howard

3/23 Caryl Sturke

3/26 Betsy Smith

3/27 Carolyn Bratton

3/27 Shannon Murphy

The United Methodist Men hold a monthly breakfast at the church. There is time for scripture, sharing, some speakers and lots of fellowship.

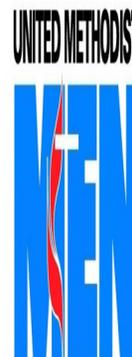
We meet on the

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

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



**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.

Open - Trustee Chair

Vicki Owens - Treasurer

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

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator