

 **The Wesleyan  
Star**  
**APRIL** **2026**

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church  
Pastor DJ Choi**

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

**“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”  
Acts 1:8**

We are living in an era of decline and fall for the American Protestant church. Some of you may remember the golden age of American Protestantism. However, the Mainline churches - especially our Methodist tradition, which has been a constant and profound influence throughout American history - are gradually fading away. Why is this happening? Why is that once powerful and magnificent era drawing to a close? Is American Protestantism truly beyond the point of recovery?

I was born and raised in a third-generation Methodist family in Korea. My faith exists because of the brave missionaries who traveled to Joseon (old Korea) 150 years ago. It was right after severe persecution of Catholics. Most of these missionaries were from the United States. Today, 25% of South Korea's population is Christian, the highest percentage in Asia.

Furthermore, South Korea is now the second-largest missionary-sending nation after the United States. It is a land where over 10 million Protestants worship God and gather every single morning to pray at dawn. South Korea has also become one of the world's top ten economies as well. How did a hopeless and savage “hermit nation” that could not achieve its own industrial revolution or modernization develop so rapidly?

I believe it is the result of the seeds of the Gospel sown 150 years ago. Between 1885 and 1950, approximately 4,000 American missionaries served in Korea; many of them, and their children, gave their entire lives to that land.

I would like to introduce two missionaries who have deep ties to our own Pennsylvania. Over the next two weeks, I will be preaching on **Henry Appenzeller** and **Rosetta Hall** - who, though originally from New York, became physicians after studying right here in Philadelphia. I believe the lives and ministries of these two individuals from 150 years ago hold a vital message for the American Protestant church in 2026. Join me as we journey back to Joseon to meet them.

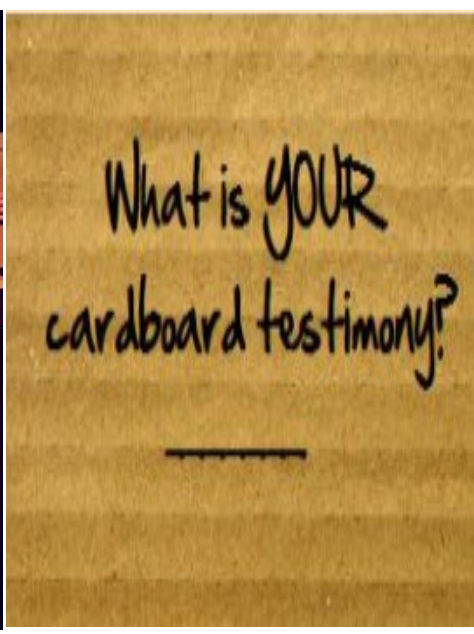
DJ Choi

**FAITH THAT CHANGED A NATION: METHODIST LEGACY (MISSIONARIES TO KOREA)**

April 19<sup>th</sup> Henry Gerhard Appenzeller John 15:13  
April 26<sup>th</sup> Rosetta Sherwood Hull Joshua 1:9

# Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> "Cardboard Testimonies"

Matthew 28: 1-10  
Pastor Shirley Daddario



\* \* \* COMING IN APRIL \* \* \*

## Upcoming Dates to Remember For April

- |                              |                                       |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <u>April 1<sup>st</sup></u>  | <b>Divorce Group Meeting</b>          | <u>April 2<sup>nd</sup></u>  | <b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>              |
| <u>April 3<sup>rd</sup></u>  | <b>Hook, Needles &amp; Knots</b>      | <u>April 7<sup>th</sup></u>  | <b>Yoga Class/Tuesday Bible Study</b>       |
| <u>April 10<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>RAP</b>                            | <u>April 12<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>UWF Meeting/Rummage Sale discussion</b>  |
| <u>April 14<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>Yoga Class/Bible Study</b>         | <u>April 15<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>CMO Art Show</b>                         |
| <u>April 17<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>Hooks, Needles &amp; Knots</b>     | <u>April 18<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>Church Hike at White Clar Preserve</b>   |
| <u>April 19<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>Crafts &amp; Char Circle (UWF)</b> | <u>April 21<sup>st</sup></u> | <b>Yoga Class/Tuesday Bible Study</b>       |
| <u>April 25<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>United Methodist Men Breakfast</b> | <u>April 26<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>Rummage Sale Collection begins/Setup</b> |
| <u>April 28<sup>th</sup></u> | <b>Yoga Class/Tuesday Bible Study</b> |                              |   |

\* \* \* \* \* **MAY** \* \* \* \* \*

- |                           |   |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>May 1<sup>st</sup></u> | <b>Rummage Sale 9:00 am till 1:00 pm.</b> |                           |                             |
| <u>May 2<sup>nd</sup></u> | <b>Rummage Sale 9:00 am till 1:00 pm.</b> | <u>May 3<sup>rd</sup></u> | <b>WGUMC Brunch Potluck</b> |



## **April Bible Verse - Giving**

Our verse for the month of April is found in

### **2 Corinthians chapter 9 vs 7:**

**“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart,  
So let him give: not grudgingly, or of necessity:  
For God loveth a cheerful giver”.**

In the verses leading up to this particular verse, Paul informs the church in Corinth that he is sending a small delegation to take up a collection in support of the work of the saints in spreading the gospel of Christ among the Gentiles, so be prepared.

As in last month’s verse, also from Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians, he holds up the church in Macedonia as an example of the kind of selfless giving that he expects. Paul isn’t bashful in his appeal to the Corinthians nor does he mince his words. Not only does he tell them what he expects, but he uses a bit of less than subtle coercion. He tells them that he also will be coming and that he just might bring some Macedonians with him. So don’t humiliate me in front of them with a less than generous gift!

When all is said and done, we shouldn’t need to be coerced, or threatened, or made to feel obligated. We should give willingly because it pleases God. In effect, Paul is telling the Corinthians in verse 7; give generously not to please me (Paul) but to please God because he loves a cheerful giver. The fact that as the verse states, God loves a cheerful giver, in no way means or even implies that we can buy His love or approval.

I prefer to think that God takes delight in a cheerful giver in much the same way that a parent takes delight in something good their child might have done. There is a reason that the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray starts with “Our Father who art in heaven”. After all we, each one of us, is a child of God. Wouldn’t it be reassuring to know that God takes delight in all that we say and do – and as this verse teaches, that includes how we give.

Looking ahead, the Bible verse for May will be taken from

### **Mark, Chapter 12 verse 41-44**

**Where Jesus talks to His disciples about the widow and her two mites.**

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

### WISH LIST

- \*T-posts (approximately 16-20)
- \*Fence wire
- \*Top soil
- \*Digging pitchfork
- \*Trowel
- \*Garden rake-Hoe

Spring is on the way and with it the wonder of nature unfolds.

You are invited to join in our community garden. No commitment to heavy lifting or long hours required.

Even if you only have time to volunteer a half hour a month your help would be very much appreciated. Contact Judy Gambill at 610-389-7242 or [jljg456@epix.net](mailto:jljg456@epix.net)



JUANITA RYAN

## PRAYING THE PSALMS

 LifeGuide®  
BIBLE STUDIES



### PRAYING THE PSALMS

A 9-week Bible study will begin on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 pm. The group will meet in the church library and will follow a discussion centered format around the study booklet, "Praying the Psalms," by Juanita Ryan.

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

Please come join us! All are welcome!

Please sign up on the wall in the lobby if you're interested in attending.

Contact Jake & Debbie at [tbones7@comcast.net](mailto:tbones7@comcast.net) or Carol at [cmcginley@zoominternet.net](mailto:cmcginley@zoominternet.net)

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Director at: [youthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:youthdirector@westgroveumc.org) with questions or for more information.



## Children's Morning Out —( CMO) - News

The month of March definitely rang true to word and came in like a lion! I think we experienced the full gamut of seasons this month, and while we were still stuck inside more days than we would like, we did get a couple of beautiful days with outside weather we were extremely grateful for!

Our little artists stayed busy with lots of colorful crafts this past month. From rainbow paintings to shamrock creations, the students practiced their fine motor skills while expressing their creativity. They also loved sensory play with green-themed bins and spring inspired materials. Our classes had a visit from a very tricky and elusive Leprechaun. We thought for sure our Leprechaun traps were going to work this year. Oh, well...maybe next year will be our year.

We also celebrated Read Across America Week at the beginning of March. Lots of silly and crazy things happened that week, including a very wacky Wednesday where our teachers looked anything but "normal." We read lots of fun books that week and are now "experts" in nonsense and rhyming words!

Our annual Preschool Art Show is coming up the evening of Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be decorating the Sanctuary with lots of amazing artwork and will be holding a silent auction to auction off our classroom projects. We will also be holding a bake sale during the Art Show, so if you would like to donate any individually wrapped baked goods that evening, please let us know! Thanks in advance for your support.

**AND a special thank you to all of the church volunteers and Chris Alvarez who helped with cleaning the preschool during Maira's absence.....All the best, Abbie**



## **NEWS FROM OUR GLOBAL MISSIONARIES**

### **NGOY AND UMBA KALANGWA**



#### **MOROGORO PASTORS TRAINING SCHOOL BEGINS SOON**

Our school for students in Morogoro will start on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

We are expecting 12 students from all over Tanzania to join us.

Please pray for them as they prepare to start their studies. We believe God will do great things in their lives and the church in Tanzania.

#### **MISSIONARY NGOY VISITED THE MAASAI COMMUNITY.**

She led a special seminar and shared God's love with them.

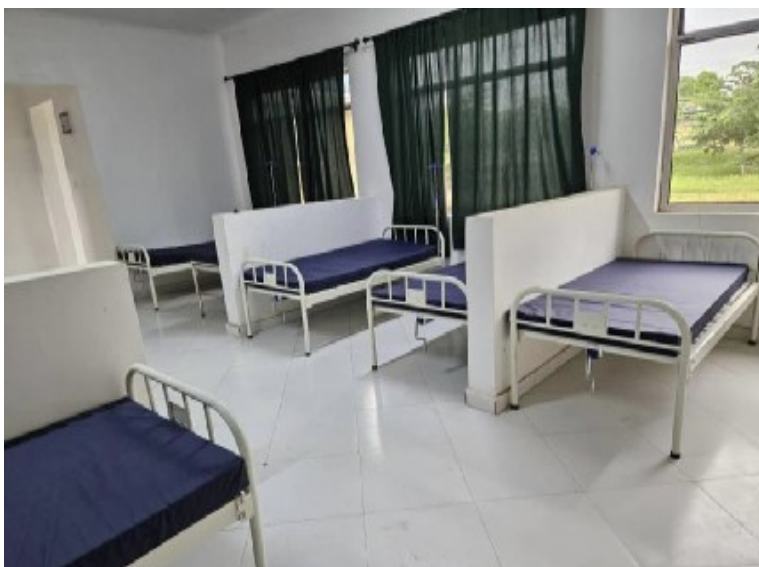
She also distributed dresses to many kids, bringing joy and hope to their hearts.

We thank God for His love and for everyone who supports us.



#### **HOSPITAL BEDS PURCHASED**

Thanks to your donations, we bought 15 hospital beds and 10 mattresses for the Susannah Wesley Polyclinic. This will help bring hope and new life to many patients. We are grateful for your generosity, which makes a big difference in people's lives.





West Grove UMC Food Pantry

7

Weekly Hours:

Wednesday: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

### FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

This past month saw a significant increase in the number of families coming each week for food. We are now averaging over 120 families on a weekly basis.

We have really appreciated the help of the youth in our church, and particularly those in the confirmation class, as they have helped with stocking shelves, bagging food and the distributions.

During the month of April our special collection will be for liquid hand soap. Your donations may be put on the shelves outside the front doors, in the black bin in the lobby or on the table in the food pantry room.



## RAP

RAP LUNCHEON FIELD TRIP  
FRIDAY APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> AT NOON

WEST GROVE MUSEUM  
513 PROSPECT AVENUE  
WEST GROVE, PA.

Bring your lunch and enjoy hearing some short stories with interesting facts about our little Borough of West Grove. Scott Steele, a long time resident of West Grove, is looking forward to sharing his passion of West Grove with us. Scott will have someone available to help with parking. He is providing us with beverages, and some RAP members have signed up to bring desserts. Come and enjoy the afternoon with your friends, and learn a little something about West Grove.



RSVP to Sara Ann at [sar57ver@verizon.net](mailto:sar57ver@verizon.net)

Or call her at 484-889-9355 to reserve your spot today.

Only 10 seats remaining!!!!!! Scott has asked for us attending to arrive between 11:30 - 12:00! We hope to see you there!!!!!!



## THE VOTE IS IN!

The ladies picked a name for their craft group! The CRAFTS and CHAT CIRCLE! We made plans to meet once a month, the third Sunday of each month. The next gathering will be Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30, where we'll be making hats to wear at the much-anticipated Women's Tea on May 16<sup>th</sup> or to hang on your front door. Dare we wear our hats to church? Mark your calendars, and let's make hats that will turn heads.

Come and join the fun as we build some new friendships and maybe learn some new crafts. If you would like to join us, please let Sandy know at [sandytrul@yahoo.com](mailto:sandytrul@yahoo.com) or send a text to Sandy at 414-520-5217, so we will have enough crafting supplies for everyone. Sign-up is important for craft supplies to be accurate.



Every Tuesday afternoon, our church welcomes all to participate in Chair Yoga, a gentle form of exercise designed for all ages and abilities. (Next meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup>)

Chair Yoga is perfect for anyone seeking to improve flexibility, reduce stress, or simply enjoy a peaceful break during the week. Sessions run from 1:30 PM to 2:15 PM and require no prior experience or registration. Bring a friend along **and experience the benefits of gentle** movement and fellowship every Tuesday! This class is led by Julissa, a certified yoga instructor from the YMCA. A minimum donation of \$5 is appreciated. **We Would Love to See YOU at Yoga!**

## ***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 them off anytime from Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, after the worship service, until Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> (9:00 - 1:00) and Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> (9:00 - 1:00). Help make our sale a success and support our community! We will need workers to set up and break down.

## **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.

**Women's Tea sponsored by  
United Women in Faith**

**Date: Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 3:00 to 4:30pm.**

**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 and much more.

Let's celebrate together! Sign up in the lobby at the magnetic boards on the wall.

**Hooks, Needles, and Knots, Oh My!**



If you think the United Women in Faith's knitting circle is a quiet gathering where stitches are counted in a whisper, you haven't met our group! Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 9:30 to 11:30 is where we laugh at our dropped stitches and enjoy the camaraderie. There is no signup - just come (conference room.) The yarn has been generously donated. Professionals and beginners are all welcomed. Contact person is Shirley Daddario at [shirleydad@verizon.net](mailto:shirleydad@verizon.net) or 484-268-0497.



**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, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**CONTACT:**

**MARYALICE MILLER AT**

**[maryalicekmiller@gmail.com](mailto:maryalicekmiller@gmail.com)**

**MAY 3RD  
AFTER CHURCH SERVICE**

# **WGUMC SUNDAY MORNING POT LUCK BRUNCH**

**Watch for more details. Contact Andrew Herman for more information at [hermanandrew@yahoo.com](mailto:hermanandrew@yahoo.com)**



Push limits.  
Enjoy the view.  
Fellowship with  
friends old and  
new.

## **HIKING CHALLENGE AND LUNCH**

Hike along the river for 5.5 miles from the White Clay Preserve in Landenberg PA to Main Street Newark DE where we will have lunch at a local restaurant then drive back to the start point.

**SAT  
APRIL  
18**

**Meeting Time: 10:00 AM**  
**Where: White Clay Preserve Park Office**  
**405 Sharpless Road Landenberg PA 19350**

Duration: 5.5 mile hike approximate 2.5 hour hike time plus lunch.



Water bottle



Small Backpack



Healthy Snacks



Hiking shoes

***Nature is calling, will you take the challenge?***

Questions: Contact Andrew Herman

[hermanandrew@yahoo.com](mailto:hermanandrew@yahoo.com)

## BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

04/01	Joyce Bischoff
04/15	Virgil Brown
04/16	Maggie Stuhrke
04/18	Thomas Hoover
04/18	Sue Hutton
04/19	Roxanne Shane
04/22	April Stoltzfus
04/30	John McGinley
04/30	April Spencer



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>





## 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!

## *~ 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](mailto:pastor@westgroveumc.org)

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

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

Mark Rome - Youth Director

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

April Spencer - Church Administrator

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

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director  
Contemporary Music Director  
Keyboardist

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

Bill Pardoe—IT Director  
[billpardoe1@gmail.com](mailto:billpardoe1@gmail.com)

Abbie Gruscavage—Children's Morning Out Director  
[cmo@westgroveumc.org](mailto:cmo@westgroveumc.org)

Maira Tena—Sexton  
[sexton@westgroveumc.org](mailto:sexton@westgroveumc.org)

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

### **Christ Servant Ministers**

Mike DuVall, [mwduvall@aol.com](mailto:mwduvall@aol.com)  
Dan Elliot, [Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org](mailto: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