

Tough Questions to Answer

There are some questions Christians don't like to bring up. Do you believe that when you get to heaven, you'll be able to see your loved ones who have already passed away?

Why does God stand idly by while evil people kill even innocent children?

Even natural disasters take countless lives. Is God actually doing His work?

How does God deal with those who have taken their own lives? Are they in heaven, or are they condemned? This October, I plan to take time to wrestle with these very questions — issues we've found frustrating but have simply glossed over. Perhaps many people have left the church disappointed because it never answered these questions. If we truly claim to be Jesus' witnesses with strong faith, we ought to boldly answer these questions for the world. So I invite you to this sermon series.

TOUGH QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

Oct 4th - "My Grandfather did not believe in Jesus, can he still go to Heaven?"
Acts 17:16-32

Oct 11th - "What is Our Legacy" 2 Timothy 1:1-7
by Pastor Shirley Daddario

Oct 18th - "Why does God allow evil and stay silent?"
Job 38:1-7, 42:1-6

Oct 25th - "How should we view Christians who commit suicide?"
Romans 8:31-39

Nov 1^s - "How am I supposed to love someone I truly cannot stand?"
Ezekiel 11:18-21



OCTOBER BIBLE VERSE - GIVING

Our “Giving” Bible verse for the month of October is found in Acts Chapter 2 verses 44 – 45.

“The believers met together and had everything jointly; They sold their property and belongings and distributed them to all, As everyone might need.”

These verses are similar to last month’s giving Bible verse in their description of how the early believers came together in support of each other and the work of the Apostles. The difference is timing. The September verses referred to the time well after Pentecost when the work of the Apostles had begun to take hold and the number of believers had become a host. Our October verse refers to an earlier more critical time in the days and weeks immediately following Pentecost when there was no Host of Believers. There was a real danger that Jesus, the miracles he had performed and his teachings would soon be forgotten and the fact of His resurrection would be written off as just another urban myth. Given how the news and events of the day were transmitted, the skepticism of the general public, the resistance of the priesthood and the presence of the Romans, just keeping the memory of Jesus alive would be a formidable task. There was a sense of urgency. The Apostles couldn’t do it alone. Their job was not just a matter of keeping the memory of Jesus and the fact of His resurrection alive, but to take the message of the cross beyond the confines of Jerusalem. Help would come in the form of a growing body of believers.

How did this early body of believers grow to become a host united in their zeal and support of the Gospel? We don’t know the extent to which they were organized. Who was in charge? How did they manage their finances? How did they settle disputes? Did they have a vision team? Did they realize that theirs was a movement that would change the world? We do know this. They Encountered God in worship on a regular basis. Scripture tells us they met together and frequented the temple daily. They were Empowered by the Holy Spirit and each other. Scripture tells us they ate and fellowshiped together and received nourishment. They were engaged. Scripture tells us they sold their property and belongings and distributed it to all as had need. They were all in.

They proved to be a powerful, effective and essential part of the work that needed to be done to ensure that the Gospel of Christ would endure, take hold, spread and ultimately change the world.

Sound familiar? – ENCOUNTER – EMPOWER – ENGAGE. May we profit by their extraordinary example of courage, commitment, sacrifice and generosity.

Looking ahead, the Bible verse for the month of November will be taken from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6 verses 19 – 21, where Jesus talks about the difference between earthly treasure and heavenly treasure.

UPDATE ON OLIVIA

(THE LITTLE ONE WE SUPPORTED WITH AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL)



**Olivia really enjoyed coloring this picture so I wanted to share it.
She is always talking about her school friends and how she can't wait
to go back to school.**

After a setback in early July of some Graft versus host, Olivia is recovering well now! She is still 100% Ryan's cells which is the best news and she recently had a blood test that was clear of any leukemia cells after a little scare. She just had her NG tube removed so she is taking one or two meds by mouth and she is very proud of herself. She still has her port but we are hoping that will come out soon. We were told that she can begin some vaccines once she is 6 months post transplant and her immune numbers need to be at a certain place.

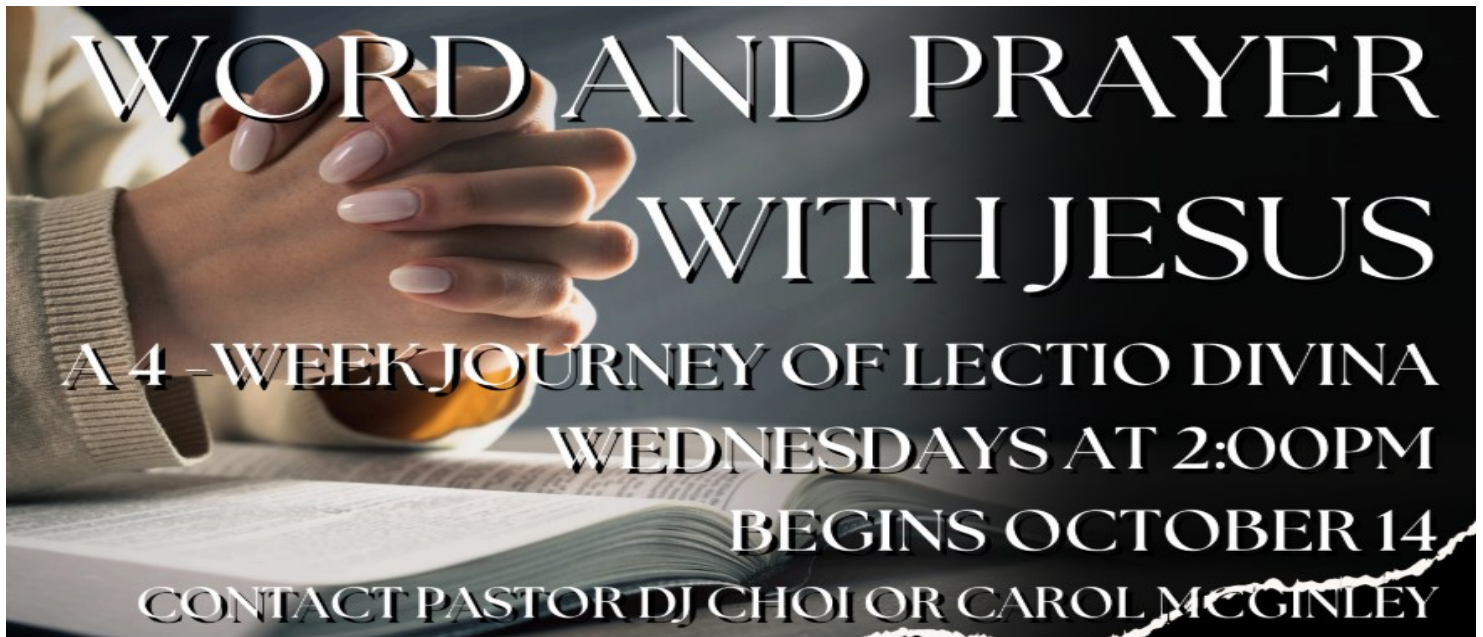
We are hopeful after the holidays she will be at that point. Unfortunately she can't get her varicella or MMR until 2 years post transplant. They told us she may be able to go back to her preschool early next year, keeping in mind she may get sick easier with the winter season. I'm really hopeful we will be in a good place to do that, if there is still room in the Tuesday and Thursday class. I will give another update closer to the end of the year or as anything changes!

I am hoping we can also deliver some thank you's to the church and school once her port is out.

We truly appreciate the kind words, prayers, donations and cards from this community.

Thank you!

Kim, Ryan, Olivia and Eleanora



Connecting with Jesus through Lectio Divina

Join us as we intentionally set aside time and space for a new 4 week 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:

- * To Connect people's hearts to the heart of Jesus so that they may grow in their intimacy with him.
- * To experience the love, peace and joy of Jesus.
- * To see beyond what we see with our physical eyes so that we see with our hearts.

During this four week journey, we will get together, quite down, get seated comfortably, breath in slowly then breath out and release anything blocking your presence with Jesus.

Then we will read the scripture passage and you will be asked what emotions you are feeling about that scripture.

We will read it a second time and you will be asked what word or words stand out to you and what you hear Jesus saying to you.

We will read the scripture a third time and ask you what Jesus is calling you to do or to be.

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.

We invite you to join us 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.



SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX!



COAT/JACKET DRIVE

This year, we again, will be conducting a Winter Outerwear Collection from **October 18th through November 24th**.

We ask for donations of new or gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves, and mittens in all sizes. A rack and box will be set-up in the lobby to receive your donations. The clothing will be made available to the families that are registered with our food pantry. If you have items that you'd like to donate but aren't able to bring them to the church, we have a member who would be happy to arrange to pick them up from your home.

Children's Morning Out —(CMO) - News



WELCOME BACK & HELLO AUTUMN!

What a wonderful start to our preschool year! It has been so sweet seeing familiar faces return and welcoming new families into our preschool community. The classrooms are already full of laughter, new friendships, and enthusiastic learning. Our teachers deserve a special thank you for all of the hard work they have put into their rooms, making sure that all of the students are feeling welcomed and supported.

As we move into autumn, we have so many exciting themed activities planned! The children will be exploring all things fall—from cozy crisp-weather crafts and colorful leaves to fun seasonal science and harvest adventures.

We will be hosting our annual Trike-A-Thon in October this year, and we are excited that Bouncy Time Party Rental is once again offering use of their bounce houses and even bringing their small animal petting zoo for the children to enjoy this year. Let's pray for nice weather!

All the best, Abbie and the Preschool Staff

TRIKE-A-THON



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE



**Item of the month:
Dog and Cat food.**

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

The following article was featured in the “Community Partnership Newsletter” put out by the Chester County FoodBank.

This quarter, we'd like to highlight our strong partnership with the West Grove United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry has expanded its operations over the years to better serve the Southern Chester County community and now provides food to over 115 households per week. Through our partnership, the Chester County Food Bank (CCFB) has supplied milk, eggs, fresh produce, frozen protein, and dry goods, helping the Food Pantry reach a growing number of neighbors in need, including crucial farm laborers.

We recently recognized the Food Pantry's simple and efficient color-coding system that scales the amount of food provided based on household size. This improves fairness and equity for all household sizes while also reducing food waste and allowing for better resource control.

CCFB has proudly supported their impact by distributing 184,812 pounds of food, including food rescue, to the Food Pantry in the last twelve months. Together, we are making a difference in tackling food insecurity across Chester County.

The Food Pantry “Item of the Month” is Dog and Cat Food. Donations can be placed in the black bin in the lobby or in the food pantry room. Contact Joan Leaman for more details: jmleaman@comcast.net



HOOKS NEEDLES AND KNOTS, OH MY!

West Grove Woman Supports Unhoused Philadelphia Residents with 'Blessing Bags'

West Grove resident **Stacey McMann** has spent a decade supporting unhoused residents in **Philadelphia** with her "Blessing Bags," and was written up in the Chester County Press a few months ago.

For years, Stacy McMann has put together plastic or paper bags filled with clothing, food, hygiene products, and sentimental notes to give to people experiencing homelessness. Dubbed her "Blessing Bags," she distributes them throughout the city, completing about four drops of 25 bags per year.

Hooks, Needles, and Knots, Oh My! Will be a part of Stacy McMann's outreach come November by knitting/crocheting 25 winter warm items for the homeless in Philadelphia.

If you want to be a part of this project, we will have a brief "**business**" chat (not a meeting) on October 3rd at 9:30 am. as we knit and crochet. Join us on each 1st and 3rd Friday at 9:30 am in the conference room to start our projects.

We have free yarn!

Join us!

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



CHAIR YOGA

**Join us each Tuesday
at 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

in the sanctuary for a gentle chair yoga class designed to support flexibility, balance, and relaxation. The class is accessible for a variety of mobility levels, and no prior yoga experience is needed.

Come enjoy light movement, friendly fellowship, and a refreshing break in your week!



Julissa Sanchez is our certified yoga instructor who also instructs at the YMCA in Jennersville.

Wear comfortable clothes, bring your water. A minimum of \$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!

Contact Shirley Daddario with questions at: shirleydad@verizon.net



UWF FALL OF 2026 **RUMMAGE SALE**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND 9:00 TILL 2:00

AND

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3RD 9:00 TILL NOON

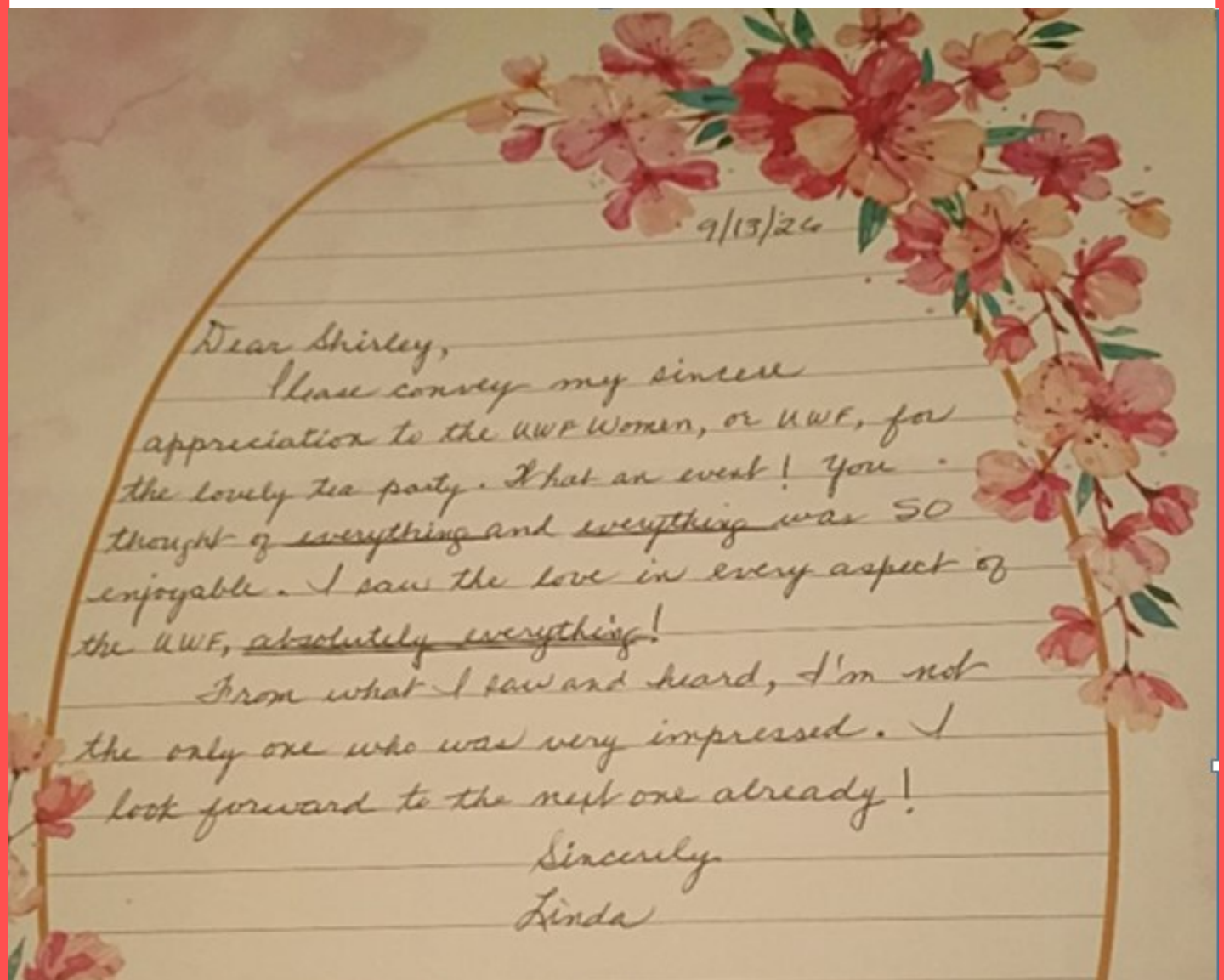
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN OF THRIFT SHOPPING WEST GROVE UMC'S RUMMAGE SALE STYLE!

Then look for the ways this event impacts our missions and community giving.



A TEA-RIFIC TIME!!!!

Our women's tea was a delightful success, with 35 lovely ladies gathering for good conversation, warm cups of tea, buttery scones, and dainty tea sandwiches. It was a perfect afternoon. The speaker spoke of the history of tea and tea cups. Compliments flowed and talked about when the next gathering will be. We received a handwritten note which reflects their experience. Here are her words:



Craft and Chat Circle

Did you ever want to make a difference in someone's life?

You are invited to join the CRAFT & CHAT gathering on

Sunday, October 18th at 1:30.

We will meet in the narthex, and be making Pine cone Christmas trees for the residents at Twin Pines.

Join us for an afternoon filled with creativity, fellowship, and fun.

You may even be able to make & take a tree home with you!
Let Sandy Pardoe know if you will be joining in on the fun.
sandytrul@yahoo.com or text to 414-520-5217



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH ADVENT BAGS

It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner.

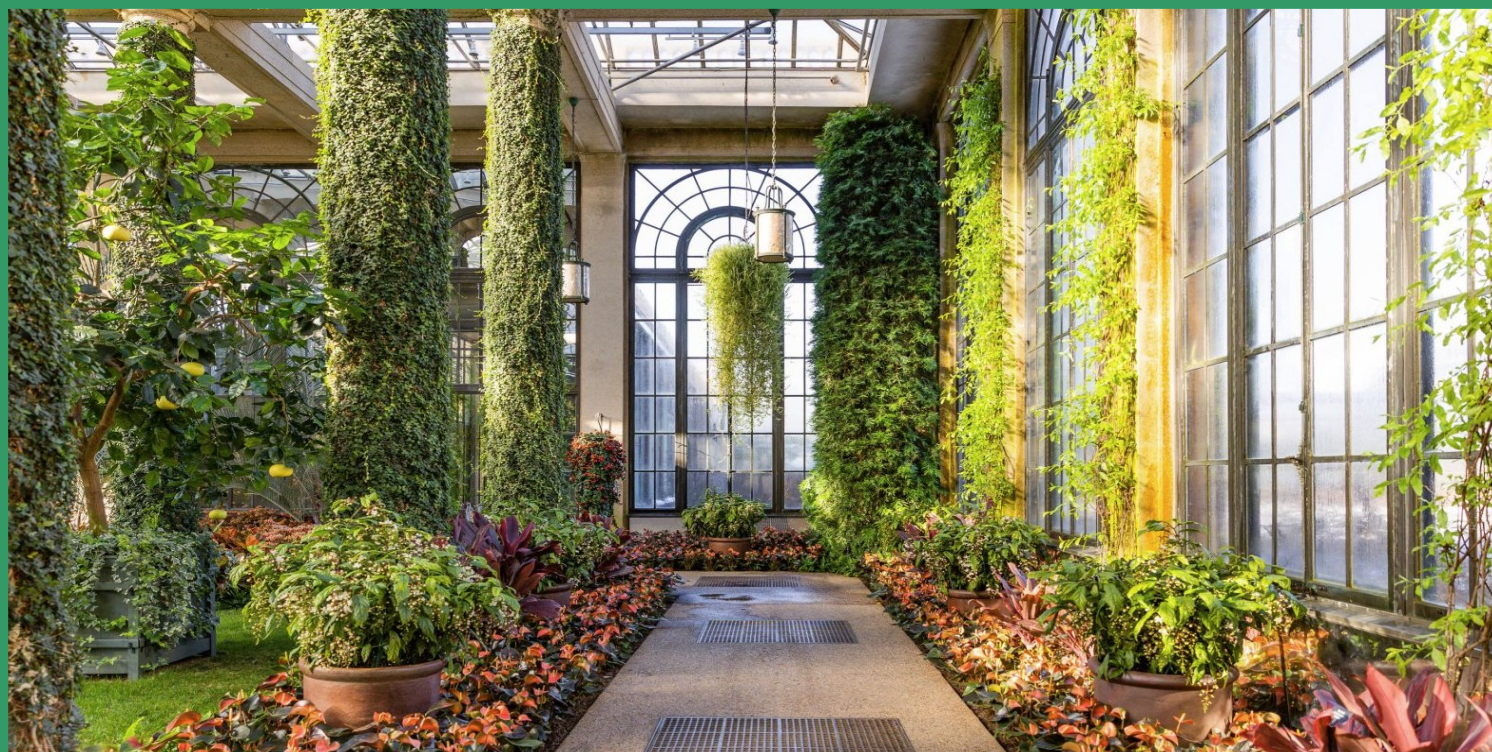
This year, the United Women of Faith will again be remembering our church family and friends who are unable to attend weekly worship services or gatherings in person.

We will do this by preparing special Advent bags, and you can help to make this season especially meaningful and memorable for them!

Please look for the Sign-Up Genius link in upcoming bulletins to see what items are needed for the Advent bags, and for wrapping and dropping off details.

Contact Cindy Weyant at cweyant1@gmail.com with any questions.





LADIES AT LONGWOOD

You are invited to an afternoon at Longwood Gardens on Saturday, October 17th, 1:00 PM to enjoy the gardens for the afternoon, strolling at your own pace.

If you are a member of Longwood Gardens, would you be willing to share your membership guest privileges with someone who does not have a Longwood Garden's membership?

Please sign up by October 11th whether you are a member or not.

Someone will contact you to confirm your reservation and answer any questions you may have.

For more details contact Paulette Bryan at: gigibryan16@gmail.com or Sharon Nesbitt at: sharon.nesbitt@comcast.net

LET'S SHOW PASTOR JIM HOW MUCH WE CARE:

It gets lonely and it's so easy to get discouraged when you have been in the hospital and/or rehab as long as our Pastor Jim has been.

Let's not let that happen!

Go by yourself or sign up to go with a group on the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Jim's new residence is: Cadia Health Care,
3540 Three Little Bakers Blvd.,
Room 144A,
Wilmington, Del. 19808

PS: Pastor Jim also really likes to receive mail!!!



DO YOU ENJOY SINGING AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP?



Join the Chancel Choir!

Rehearsals for the new fall season
begin Thursday evening,
September 3rd, 6:45 pm.
in the Choir Room

Come make a joyful noise with us!



Reach out to Betsy Smith with any questions - (musicmomva@aol.com)

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 October

<u>October 1st</u>	Rummage Sale (Final Set up and open to Food Pantry)/Thursday Night Bible Study		
<u>October 2nd</u>	Rummage Sale/Hooks, Needles and Knots/Stephen Ministry		
<u>October 3rd</u>	Rummage Sale	<u>October 6th</u>	Yoga Class/Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
<u>October 7th</u>	Divorce Group	<u>October 9th</u>	RAP/Stephen Ministry
<u>October 11th</u>	Stephen Ministry/RAP	<u>October 12th</u>	Just Sing
<u>October 13th</u>	Yoga Class/Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study		
<u>October 14th</u>	Word & Prayer	<u>October 15th</u>	Thursday Night Bible Study
<u>October 16th</u>	Hooks, Needles & Knots, Stephen Ministry		
<u>October 18th</u>	Crafts & Chat Circle	<u>October 19th</u>	Just Sing
<u>October 20th</u>	Yoga Class/Tuesday Bible Study	<u>October 21st</u>	Word & Prayer
<u>October 22nd</u>	Thursday Night Bible Study	<u>October 23rd</u>	Stephen Ministry
<u>October 24th</u>	United Methodist Men Breakfast	<u>October 26th</u>	Just Sing
<u>October 27th</u>	Yoga Class/Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study		
<u>October 28th</u>	Word & Prayer	<u>October 29th</u>	Thursday Night Bible Study



RAP OCTOBER PROGRAM

“RETIRED ACTIVE PEOPLE”

Get ready for an afternoon of fun, energy, and entertainment as we welcome the Avon Grove Charter School Dance Team on Friday, October 9th at 12:00 Noon.

This talented group of students has been performing for four years at school basketball games, holiday performances, community events, and statewide competitions.

We are excited to have them share their talents with us—and who knows, they may even teach us a few dance steps! Bring your brown-bag lunch and join us at noon. Coffee, iced tea, and water are provided. Please RSVP to Sandy Pardoe at sandytrul@yahoo.com so we have adequate seating. We hope you will join us on October 9th for an entertaining and engaging afternoon!

If you have any questions, reach out to any RAP Committee member: Sandy Pardoe (chairperson) Joyce Lewis • Caryl Stuhrke • Paulette Bryan • Cindy Weyant



Intercessory Prayer after worship

PRAYER TEAM MEMBERS,

We are restarting intercessory prayer after the service, a good tradition of our church that had been suspended for a while.

We hope to have one or two people take turns each week. It would be wonderful if you could serve about once a month.

I will be joining in as well. If you would like to join us, please let me know. You can reach me at:
pastor@westgroveumc.org or 215-776-7895



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



EJ Choi	01
Cindy Weyant	04
Grace Bowes	08
Jake Schneider	08
Bob Hocking	11
Valerie Kapp-Benner	16
Pam Carmichael	17
Lois Hocking	18
Susan Paisley	18
Christian Schneider	18



Amy Aucott	19
Janice Bowers	20
Simonds, Amy	21
John Carmichael	22
Kyle Aucott	23
Jill Hocking	24
Fernando Tena	26
Jonathan Tena	26
Austin McCummings	29



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 — at 10:30 am , next meeting is October 12th and October 26th!

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!

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

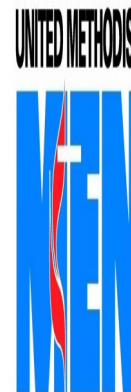
Fourth Saturday of each Month, 8:00 -9:30 am.

Next meeting is October 24th

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)





WEST GROVE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*~ Encounter ~ Empower ~ Engage ~
Encouraging our community to be followers of Christ.*



DO YOU RECEIVE WGUMC'S WEEKLY 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!

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

Staff

Rev. DongJin (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—Janitorial Services
sexton@westgroveumc.org

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

Vision Team

Dick Stuhrke - Vision Team Chair (Ad. Council)
Shirley Daddario - Vision Team Co-Chairperson
Dan Elliott - Finance Chair
Mark Simonds - Trustees Chair
John Gambill - Trustees Co-Chairperson
Cindy Hoover - SPRC Chair
Christine Bruno - SPRC Co-Chairperson
Paulette Bryan - Vision Team Recording Secretary
Joan Leaman - Member at large /Lay Leader
DJ Choi - Lead Pastor (Ex-officio member)
(Ex-officio members do not vote.)

Other Committees

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
Cindy Hoover - Vice President.
Sharon Nesbit -UWF Treasurer
Paulette Bryan - UWF Secretary
Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator
Joan Leaman - Financial Secretary
Valerie Kapp-Benner - Finance Treasurer
Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator
Cindy Hoover - CMO Advisory Board Chair
Sandy Pardoe - R.A.P Coordinator

SEPTEMBER 2026