



The Wesleyan Star

* * July * * 2024

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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

**Email: office@westgroveumc.org
Website: www.westgroveumc.org**

Pastor's message

**When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,
“Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”
Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals
off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is Holy Ground.”**

Exodus 3:3-5

I am so excited to join you on the Journey with Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Since I was appointed to West Grove UMC in March, I have been praying for what message I should share with you. I see the vision that we, the Methodist Church, are in the wilderness like the people of Exodus. There is no unity of church for different theological views. We became spiritual sojourners without united faith in the Wesleyan Movement. Furthermore, we are facing unprecedented challenges, after effects of COVID-19. We are living in a politically, economically polarized society as well. What should we do as the church? What is the Mission of the church today?

I would like to find the answer from the Book of Exodus. It testifies how the LORD brought the Hebrew, the afflicted people out of slavery, the pyramid society of the Rich and the Poor, the Powerful and the Weak into Freedom, living in the presence of God with true peace, Shalom. But they were sojourners in the wilderness. God led them into the Promised Land. I pray that through this sermon series, EXODUS: Journey to Freedom, we discover the desires of God for our Call to be the Church, the secrets of the Freedom in God in the Wilderness, the will of God in the Law, Justice and righteousness.

In Christ,
DJ




Worship in July at West Grove UMC

Join us as we worship together by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing in God's way, and serving



Summer Service 9:30 am. Worship. Youth Group Thursday, 6 to 7 pm.



EXODUS

Journey to Freedom

EXODUS: Journey to Freedom

July 7th :The New Beginning

Exodus 3:1-8

July 14th: "I AM the Lord"

Exodus 7:1-7

July 21st: The Passover of Redemption

Exodus 12:15-31

July 28th: The Exodus of Deliverance

Exodus 14:10-25

"ENVISIONING THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF SCRIPTURE"

July 2024

In our secular world, January 1st marks the beginning of the new year. In the United Methodist Church, however, the church year begins on July 1st. This is the time when pastors who are assigned to a new charge begin their duties. Do you know every pastor is appointed to serve one year? They are then re-appointed each year to the same church or are moved to a new appointment. We are experiencing both of such appointments this year. DJ (Dong Jin) Choi has been re-assigned from Ephrata First UMC to West Grove UMC and I have been re-appointed to West Grove UMC for the 21st time. This is not just a change for us individually, but a shared journey we embark on as a community.

It is a time of new beginnings. It is a time when we remember the past but look forward to the time that is before us. This is also a time to look to see if we need to view our lives with God.

Do we need a new beginning spiritually? Do we need to renew ourselves spiritually as a guide to accept the change of new leadership?

All change starts with God; at times, we must re-appoint ourselves with Him, strengthen that relationship with Him, and leave the sinful world behind. This is not just a change but an opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal.



I offer you this prayer, composed by Henri Nouwen. After you have read it, you may want to pray and share it with God. Remember, in times of change and uncertainty, the power of prayer can bring us comfort and reassurance.

"O Lord, who else or what else can I desire but you? You are my Lord, Lord of my heart, mind, and soul. You know me through and through. In and through you everything that is, finds its origin and goal. You embrace all that exists and care for it with divine love and compassion. Why, then, do I keep expecting happiness and satisfaction outside of you? Why do I keep relating to you as one of my many relationships, instead of my only relationship, in which all other ones are grounded? Why do I keep looking for popularity and respect from others, success, acclaim, and sensual pleasures? Why, Lord, is it so hard for me to make you the only one? Why do I keep hesitating to surrender myself totally to you?"

Help me, O Lord, to let my old self die, to let me die to the thousand big and small ways in which I am still building up my false self and trying to cling to my false desires. Let me be reborn in you and see through you the world in the right way, so that all my actions, words, and thoughts can become a hymn of praise to you. I need your loving grace to travel on this hard road that leads to the death of my old self to a new life in and for you.

I know and trust that this is the road to freedom. Lord, dispel my mistrust and help me become a trusting friend. I long to trust in you and your divine plan. Amen."

As we look forward to worship and come to praise God, may we do so with the understanding that we are God's children, as John shared in his gospel. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:12-13).

Pastor Jim

Jenner's Pond Residents!

Join us for worship on July 14, at 11 a.m.



THANK YOU SO MUCH

YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

The interim period between pastors can be an uncertain time for some churches. West Grove United Methodist Church has been no exception. Early on, when it became clear that the conference was having difficulty finding us an interim pastor, both Pastor Jim and Mel stepped up and agreed to a schedule of preaching on alternate Sundays. The staff maintained its schedule of regular monthly meetings where they all came together in the common cause to keep the church vital and vibrant while an interim pastor was still being sought. We have been truly blessed to have not only a dedicated staff but people from within the congregation who have stepped up with their prayers, time, talent and active support during this interim period.

Was it misfortune or providence that the first candidate selected by the conference to be our interim pastor turned us down? Looking back, I think I can say that it was the power of the prayers of our congregation at work, because it brought us Pastor Janice L. Bowers. Even though Janice was appointed to serve as our interim pastor on a part time basis, she gave us full time effort and more. She didn't just go through the motions to keep us together until our new pastor comes on board. From day one, she provided some much needed leadership on issues that would normally be the purview of a full time lead pastor. Her gifts for ministry, faithful dedication to the job at hand, courage to challenge and not always accept the things as they are, and passion for this church proved her to be, at least to my mind and I know I don't stand alone, exactly what we needed during this interim period. We are in a better place because of Janice. I am happy to report that Janice's time with us doesn't end today. She has agreed to provide ongoing support to our new pastor by continuing to serve as our financial secretary until that position is filled by a member of the congregation.

May that same power of prayer that brought Janice here to serve as our interim pastor sustain and empower her as she continues in the Lord's work. She is truly one of God's chosen servants.

Thank you for a job "Well Done"!

Words are woefully inadequate to express the gratitude so many of us feel for your selfless service here at WGUMC.



Everything Changes

(by Mel Leaman - 6/3/2024)

Everything changes
 Nothing is what it was
 Spirit is always
 In the wind
 Upon the waters
 These waters –
 Rise and fall
 Rush with wildness
 Recede with whimpers of yesterday
 Her erratic faces flow from
 Flood to trickle
 Crashing waves to gentle currents
 Puddles filled with promise
 Each is the architect of change
 Carving banks with new twists and turns
 Cutting - smoothing rough edges of hardened rock
 Constantly, yet not obviously
 Making all things new
 Promising that there will never be “a day like yesterday”
 Creating the novel of tomorrows

Do not pray with desperate clinging
 Demanding the certainty of yesterday
 Anticipating the comfortability of sameness
 Resenting expectations that were not met
 Do not yield to ego’s desire to control that turns
 Open hands to closed fists
 Softened smiles to furrowed brows
 Kindness to calculated defensiveness
 Do not fear the river’s flow
 Jump in
 Find joy
 Abundance awaits
 Welcome the waters of transformation
 To drown is not to die
 Each birth begins with gasping breath
 Spirit always resurrects new life
 She has no investment in stagnation
 Everything changes.
 Have no fear.
 Let the river flow.



RUMMAGE SALE

Mark your calendars and start "rummaging" around in the basement and attic!

October 3rd thru the 5th are the sale dates.

Articles will be accepted beginning September 29th.



CHURCHES RESPOND.
HOMELESSNESS ENDS.
HOPE BEGINS.

Dear Cindy,

Thank you for making a difference! Your gift of \$250.00, designated for Bridge of Hope Chester County, is ending family homelessness in significant ways.

For example: Emilia found herself in a situation where she could not get her girls to camp and be at work at the same time. Your donation helped solve Emilia's dilemma and others. Summer solutions for single moms-especially those who are on the journey out of homelessness- are a big win! Thank you for helping support solutions as families exit homelessness. Your gift truly matters.

Edith E. Yoder
Chief Executive Officer



1156 West Baltimore Pike
Post Office Box 394
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-0400
www.familypromisesc.org
www.info@familypromisesc.org

Dear West Grove United Methodist Church/United Methodist Women:

Thank you for believing in Family Promise of Southern Chester County's vision that "Every Child Has A Home." Your generous gift of \$250.00 is already changing lives for those who are experiencing homelessness. We strive to provide temporary apartment style shelter living to families with school-aged children who are facing homelessness and life skills training such as how to improve their credit and financial situations, build social networks and secure permanent housing.

We look forward to sharing with you the many achievements your gift is making.

With Gratitude,, Carol M. Lowe, MSW, LSW, Executive Director



Dear United Methodist Women,

I just want to quickly take the time and thank you all for the care packages you sent me my last two semesters. It meant so much to know you were thinking of me!

Sincerely,
Matthew
Kamin

Youth

NEWS
AND
EVENTS

Youth Conference—Ignite October 11-13

In Wildwood, NJ. Preachers—Bands—Events

To register or for more information Please call Xavier at 610-612-7377

Or email him at Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org



Vacation Bible School

JULY 15TH-19TH.

WE HAVE 105 CHILDREN SIGNED UP THUS FAR !

**IF YOU HAVEN'T SIGNED UP FOR THIS EXTREMELY WORTH WHILE EVENT,
THERE IS STILL TIME. AND, OF COURSE, IT IS NEVER TO LATE TO VOLUNTEER!!!**

CALL XAVIER FOR ALL THE DETAILS AT 610-612-7377,

OR EMAIL HIM AT CHILDYOUTHDIRECTOR@WESTGROVEUMC.ORG,

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



**There will be no Youth Group or Youth Basketball on
Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.**



The Envelope Fundraiser!

This fundraiser will help support the child and youth program for future activities and cost of future gatherings.

This is how it works, there will be envelopes numbered from 1-100 in the back of the Sanctuary /Fellowship Hall. You will decide how much money you would like to donate to the child and youth ministry and take that number envelope. So, if you want to donate \$10 to the trip, you take the #10 envelope. If you want to donate \$98, you take the #98 envelope and so on. If you want to donate more than \$100, you can combine envelopes, any questions or concerns please let me know.

Xavier Feliciano





West Grove UMC Food Pantry

Weekly Hours:

Wednesdays: 5:00—6:00 pm.

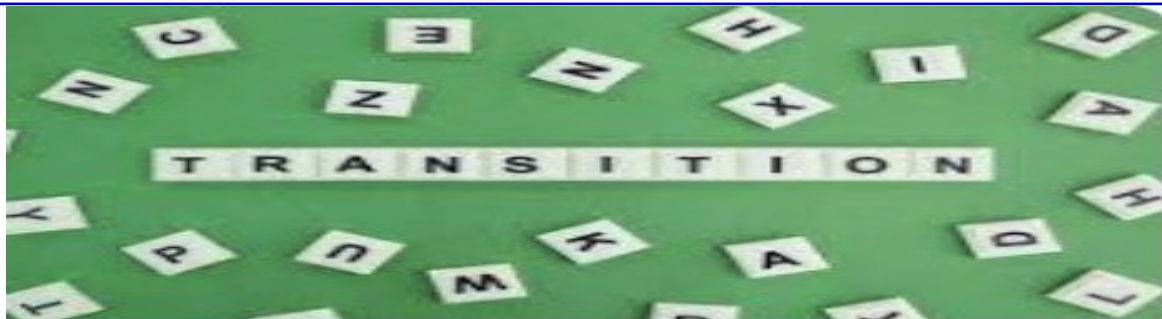
Thursdays: 1:00—2:00 pm.

Our Church Food Bank Depends on You!

This past month we were fortunate to receive food from Penn London Ele. on the last day of school. Any refrigerated food with a June expiration day was donated to our pantry. We received 10 crates of milk, frozen fruit cups, celery and carrots that we were able to share with our neighbors when they came to shop.

July begins the Chester County Food Bank year so all food pantry families need to complete the annual registration. We could use as much help as possible the month of July when we do the majority of our registrations. If you are not a regular volunteer but feel you could give a few hours of your time during July, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net).

We need volunteers July 3, 10, 24 and 31 from 4:45-6:15 and July 11, 25 and Aug. 1 from 12:45-2:15. We continue to purchase eight cases of tortillas each month and would certainly appreciate any monetary donation you may care to make to help with that purchase. Please indicate that your donation is for the church food pantry. Thanks!



WGUMC TRANSITION TEAM

WGUMC has put together a team to help our new pastor, DJ Choi, transition into his new leadership role as pastor here at WGUMC.

The team will be meeting as a group and on an individual basis with Pastor Choi during his first year with us.

Team members are: Dick Stuhrke, Pastor Janice Bowers, Pastor Jim Mundell, Betsy Smith, April Spencer, Kim O'Neill, Andrew Herman, Susan Paisley and Judy Gambill.

West Grove UMC Calendar of Events

Be sure to check out the church calendar on our website. There are many activities, groups, events, studies and more going on every week.

Sunday School has classes for adults and children of all ages. Your church calendar is reviewed daily and updated with the latest events and meetings. Please refer to our website to get information, updates, calendar events, etc. www.westgroveumc.org



Hello from CMO!

Looking back to the end of the school year, just a few short weeks ago, I smile with pride for all that the children accomplished throughout the year. The children who came to school apprehensive and anxious about being away from their parents for the first time, ended the year joyful and confident and full of smiles!

It was so wonderful to see the transformation.

I'm so proud of everyone!

I also wanted to make sure to take a moment to thank all of our wonderful teachers, church members and leaders who made the school year so wonderful. Your support means so much to the success of our preschool program.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year is exciting!

We are adding a third PreK class!

This is huge for our program and we are excited about the growth the preschool is experiencing. We can't wait to see what the new year will bring, but until then...we are enjoying our summer break! Stay cool!

Abbie

CMO

Serenity Prayer

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

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

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

AMEN-

courageouschristianfather.com

Reinhold Niebuhr



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.**

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>



BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Kris LeStourgeon	02
Michael Brown	08
Tom Eason	09
Barb Lytle	09
Jeffery Mullen	09
Gene Aucott	11
Janis Schrader	13
David Black	15
Ann Figueroa	15
Joan Saller	15
Megan Dilworth	17
Brady Castaldi	18
Francis Capuano	19



Your church family wishes all of you a very happy birthday and a year filled with happiness and blessings!!

Janelle Hadly	19
Kevin Barrett	20
Elizabeth Gula	21
Jacob Rinehimer	21
Buddy Winters	22
Cora Boyd	23
Josh Fulton	25
Pat Heist	28
Nate Howard	29
Scott Steele	29
Mya Ditzel	31



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

July 2024



**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 Sunday Sneak-a-Peek about the sermon on Sunday and other information, including our newsletter, and a link to the 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!

~ Open, Grow, Serve ~

At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.

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

Xavier Feliciano - Youth & Children's Ministry
Director

Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

April Spencer - Church Administrator
Office@westgroveumc.org

Valerie Kapp-Benner—Financial Administrator
Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Interim Director
Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Lavenia Civitella—Handbell Choir Director
Misslavenia@verizon.net

Abbie Gruscavage—Children's Morning Out Director
cmo@westgroveumc.org

Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant
Maira Tena—Sexton
sexton@westgroveumc.org

Christ Servant Ministers

Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com
Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

Board and Committee Leadership

Val Kapp-Benner - Interim Administrative Council Chair

Kim O'Neil - Trustee Chair

OPEN - Finance Chair

Valerie Kapp-Benner - Treasurer

Janice Bowers - Interim Financial Secretary

Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Chair

Children's Ministry Team Contact

Janice Bowers - Missions Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley & Cindy Haley - Delegate to Annual Conference

Open - Committee on Lay Leadership

Karen Hruz and Cindy Haley—Co-Lay Leader

Cindy Haley & Fran Miller - U.M.W. Co-Presidents

Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Cindy Haley and Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinators