



The Wesleyan Star September 2024

West Grove
United Methodist Church
Pastor DJ Choi

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

Pastor's message

Dear West Grove Church Family:

Matthew 6:5-6

Do you pray? What do you pray for? When do you pray? Why do you pray? How do you pray?
Does God answer your prayers? What is Prayer anyway?

Is it chatting with God? Or is it like singing the blues to God when you are in despair over your troubles? Is it some kind of self-hypnosis to make you feel better? We know God does not answer our prayers all the time nor in **our** way and time. In fact, many Christians do not pray.

But Prayer is an essential part of the Christian journey and in our relationship with God. What's the problem? How come some Christians don't pray at all? Only those self-righteous, well-off, successful people prayed to brag about God's blessing. While those suffering and struggling people didn't pray because their calamities made them unrighteous people. This is exactly the reason why Jesus taught his disciples how to pray.

Prayer is not a privilege only for successful and blessed people by worldly standards. Prayer is breathing with God, living in the presence of God. We can't live without prayer. So, I would like to share with you a sermon series on the Lord's Prayer, beginning September 22nd through October 20th. I hope and pray that we can discover the power and the beauty of prayer so we can live a prayerful life together.

In Prayer,

DJ



Worship in September at West Grove UMC

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



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

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, Who Art in Heaven...



Lord's Prayer: Our Father, Who Art in Heaven...

Sep 22nd: Our Father in Heaven

Matthew 6:9

Sep 29th: You Kingdom Come

Matthew 6:10

Oct 6th: Give Us this Day Our Daily Bread

Matthew 6:11

Oct 13th: Forgive Us Our Debt

Matthew 6:12

Oct 20th: Lead Us Not into Temptation

Matthew 6:13

PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN

"GROWING OUR FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE"

Beginnings

September 2024

September is the time for our children to go back to school. It is a new beginning for most students. It is a time to learn new things, gain a new perspective on life, and prepare for the days to come. Learning, however, is for people of all ages. As Christians, living as a Christian, also requires us to learn about our faith. It is a constant, ongoing battle we all face. Sometimes, we must go back to the beginning to examine our faith's background.

We are offering a study on "Beginnings," looking at the Book of Genesis. Can you recall the events of the six days of creation? Who were Adam's children? God made a covenant with Abraham for what reason? These are not just historical facts; they are the foundation of our present faith and life. We do not live in the past, but living today without knowledge of the past puts us at a disadvantage.



So, I'm inviting you to come and learn as we delve into the "BEGINNINGS" in the Book of Genesis. We will explore the days of creation, Adam, Eve, and family. We will understand what led to the problems we face today and how sin altered God's original plan for us. We will study the early life of creation and how God established a people for Himself. This is a journey of learning, and you are invited to join as a student, eager to gain more insight into God's word.

Our study begins on September 9 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. I look forward to your participation. No prior knowledge is required—you come as a student to learn and grow your faith and knowledge.

Pastor Jim.



Join us this Fall as we offer several new Bible Studies.

“Encountering Jesus”

by Douglas Connelly and published by Intervarsity Press is being offered by Carol McGinley, Jake and Debbie Schneider.

Meetings begin Tuesday, September 10th at 1:00 pm. through December 17th, in the Conference Room.

Please come join us for these thoughtful and faith-building sessions.

All are welcome!

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Pastor DJ will be leading a Bible Study on the **Book of John** beginning Wednesday, September 11th at 1:00 in the Conference Room.

All are welcome!

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Pastor Jim will resume his weekly Bible study on Monday, September 9th, 2024, at 6:30 pm. in the church sanctuary. It is entitled

“BEGINNINGS” a study of the Book of Genesis.

The first part of the study will be Genesis chapters 1-11, Creation, Sin, and the nature of God, and the second part will be Genesis chapters 12-50, the beginning of Israel, with the study of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph their lives and faith in God.

All are welcome!

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Adult Sunday School at WGUMC

Beginning on September, 8th, 8:30—9:15 before our 9:30 Worship Service.

Caryl Stuhrke will be offering a study by Adam Hamilton “Christianity’s Family Tree”,.

All are welcome.

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The Men’s Sunday School group will continue their study of the bible **“Genesis to Revelations”** beginning in September. Contact Pastor Jim with questions sjmundell@comcast.net.

All are welcome.

RUMMAGE SALE

United Methodist Women's Fall Rummage Sale

Friday, October 4th, 9 AM—2 PM

Saturday, October 5th, 9 AM—Noon

Bring your donations from Sunday, September 29th, through Thursday, October 3rd.

Saturday special: Fill a Bag for only \$5.00!!

Left-over items are donated. Our United Methodist Women, who sponsor this sale, fund ministries and missions within the church and throughout community with the proceeds from the Rummage Sale.

Thank you!



Cottage Fellowships!!!

September 17th at 2:00 pm. hosted by Mel & Joan Leaman

September 18th at 4:00 pm hosted by Dan & Janet Elliott

September 25th at 2:00 pm. hosted by John & Judy Gambill

September 26th at 6:00 pm. hosted by Bob and Amy Castaldi.



Take advantage of the opportunity to get to know Pastor DJ better. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.



Youth Group Meets

Wednesdays 6:00—7:00 pm.

Youth Sunday School

Join us during the 9:30 service for our Youth Sunday School program, beginning September 8th.



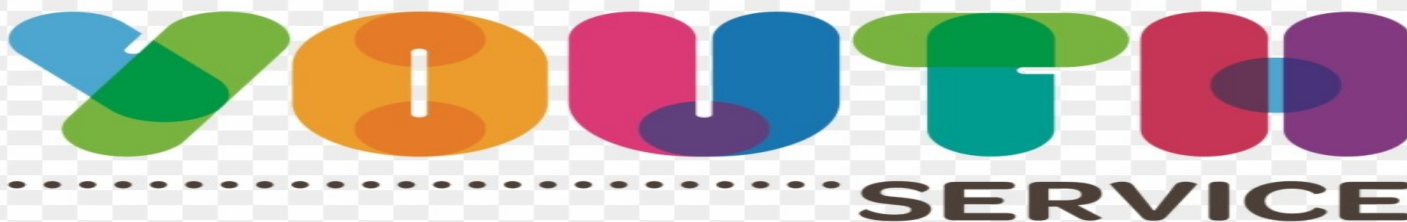
Event Details:

Dates: September 13th-14th, 2024 **Location:** Uprise Music Festival

General Admission Gates Open: Friday: 2:30 pm Saturday: 3:00 pm

Departure: We will depart from West Grove UMC at **12:00 pm on Friday, September 13th**. Please ensure your youth are prepared with a sleeping bag and toiletries as we will be camping at the event campgrounds.

Event Conclusion: Saturday, 10:30 pm . **Please contact Xavier for fourth details: childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org or 610-612-7377**



Hello West Grove United Methodist Church!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who attended the Youth Run Sunday Service on August 25th! Your presence and support were truly appreciated.

A special thanks goes to Pastor DJ for allowing the Youth to take the lead and run the service from start to finish. We're also grateful to the congregation for supporting our efforts as we work to build a vibrant new youth movement at West Grove UMC.

As the Youth Director, I want to express my gratitude to all the youth and adults who contributed to making this service a success. With an attendance of 75 people, we're excited about continuing our efforts to grow our community.

If you happened to miss this Youth Run Sunday Service, don't worry! We look forward to taking over the service once again this November and continuing our journey together.

Thank you once again, for your support.

Xavier Feliciano // Director of Children & Youth Ministries WGUMC

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

Calling all returning and potentially new Bell Ringers!



Join us on Thursday, September 5th, at 4:30 pm, as we meet to organize and start practicing.

No experience necessary, just a desire to "Ring".

If you're interested in being a substitute ringer, we need you too! Come on the 5th of September and plan on making a joyful noise!

If you have any questions, contact bell director, Lavenia Civitella at misslavenia@verizon.net.



Do you enjoy singing?

Come, join us singing praises to the Lord.

Choir Practice is on Thursday nights, beginning August 29th at 6:45 pm.

Contact Betsy Smith at musicmomva@aol.com or 484-883-3633



United Methodist Women (United Women of Faith)

Once again, we wish to thank everyone who supports the missions of the United Women of Faith, especially our Rummage Sales, which provide us the funds to support various local and global ministries.

Our upcoming Fall Rummage Sale is set for October 4th (9 am to 2 pm) and October 5th (9 am to 12 noon). Beginning Sunday, September 29, donations may be brought to the church and put in the sanctuary, as we will be setting up for the sale throughout that week. We would appreciate all donations be here by Thursday morning, October 3rd .

Any and all help is appreciated throughout the week and for the two days of the sale. We truly appreciate the help cleaning up at the end of the sale on Saturday. We are not able to provide this event to the public without the help and support of many volunteers, and, we thank you.

We are planning to meet on Sunday, September 22nd , from 3 – 4 pm in the church lobby to reconnect as Women of Faith and begin planning how we may continue our focus on missions this coming year. If you have any ideas or programs you would like to share, please bring that information with you. All women of the church are invited! If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Cindy Haley at 609-410-6826.

Again, thank you to everyone who supports the United Methodist Women and our many missions.

Cindy Haley and Fran Miller

Retired Active People



RAP (Retired Active People)

RAP reconvenes on Friday, September 13th, at noon in the church sanctuary. Join us as we look forward to another year of fellowship and interesting programs.

Our programs lined up for the fall are as follows:

September 13th, we welcome longtime RAP member, Raymond McKay, who will present a program on the "Importance of Measurements, their history, and some peculiarities."

October 11th, we welcome Bob Hotchkiss of Medic 94, who will share information about services provided.

November 8th, we welcome RAP member, Dick Stuhrke, who will present a program on boats.

December 13th, we welcome back Betsy Smith and Pastor Jim Mundell to lead us in a Christmas sing-a-long. (a potluck luncheon will be planned)

We will continue to meet on the second Friday of the month. Bring your bagged lunch and enjoy a time of gathering with friends. Desserts are provided by volunteers each month and hot and cold beverages are always available.

We are so grateful to everyone who helps make our monthly gatherings possible. If you would like to volunteer to bring a dessert or help with our setup and/or cleanup, please let us know.

Come, join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship with good friends. Everyone is welcome! Invite your friends! Please RSVP to Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57var@verizon.net or 610-869-3863 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we may setup and plan accordingly.

Your RAP Committee:

Paulette Bryan, Cindy Haley, Joyce Lewis, Sara Ann Ramberger and Caryl Stuhrke



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!

As summer comes to an end, we have seen significant increases in the number of families that have been visiting our church food pantry.

The majority of food that we distribute comes from the Chester County Food Bank, however there are a few items that the church purchases.

Consequently, if you would care to support this ministry, to those in our community facing food insecurity, monetary donations are greatly appreciated.

Please indicate that the money is to be directed toward the food pantry. Thank you!



Prayer Room Coverage



A member of the Prayer Ministry team will be available in the Prayer Room for anyone desiring prayer after the service. Coverage will begin September 8th.

All prayers are confidential and will be shared with permission, to Pastor DJ.

Members of Prayer Ministry are: Carolyn Bratton, Cindy Haley, Sandi Hampton, Pam Howard, Carol McGinley and Susan Paisley.



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 all!

Back to school is always an exciting time here at Preschool! These past few weeks the teachers and I have been very busy preparing the classrooms and Preschool wing for our new set of students who will be joining us!

School is slated to start after Labor Day, on Tuesday, September 3rd. We will have a full house this year with only a couple of spots still open in our 2 day per week, Tuesday/Thursday 2 year old and 3 year old classes.

I'm often asked if there is anything we need from the church congregation. We are always in need of tissues, Clorox/Lysol wipes, baby wipes, and nut free individually wrapped snacks. The rate we go through these particular items is crazy! We appreciate any and all donation and thank you in advance!

We can't wait to get into the swing of things and start fostering a fun and exciting learning environment for our students! Keep your eyes open for some beautiful and creative artwork to decorate the hallway by the bathrooms! It's always a treat to see what the teachers are able to create and accomplish with our young learners!

Until next time,

Abbie



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 SEPTEMBER

Hannah McCumming	9/1
Owen Jones	9/3
Katie Beauchamp	9/3
Ellie Capuano	9/4
Dylan Farr	9/7
Chris Curtis	9/8
Tim Anderman	9/8
Fran Miller	9/9
Victoria Owens	9/10
Keith Schneider	9/11
William Ipock	9/11
Timothy Ipock	9/11
Ruth Kuch	9/14
Kim Smith	9/18
Carol Barrett	9/18



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

Matt Simonds	9/19
Bob Phillips	9/19
Bob Hughes	9/21
Christy Robinson	9/22
Rogelio Herrera	9/23
Gary Spencer	9/24
John Carmichael	9/24
Mike Stewart	9/24
Shaun Smith	9/24
Jack Krohn, IV	9/25
Heather Ditzel	9/26
Joyce Smith	9/28
Steve May	9/28
Lindsay Reisinger	9/28



West Grove United Methodist Church
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

September 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 and
Financial Administrator

Kim O'Neil - Trustee Chair

OPEN - Finance Chair

Vicki Owens - 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