



The Wesleyan Star

**West Grove
United Methodist Church**

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West Grove, Pa. 19390
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February 2024



INTERIMS FOR THE INTERIM PASTOR

We started the new year knowing we would not have a FULL-TIME pastor at West Grove United Methodist Church. With Pastor Tim officially retiring as of January 17, 2024, our church is waiting for an interim pastor to be assigned by our District Superintendent (DS) Evelyn Kent-Clark. Just before the new year, Pastor Evelyn called me and asked if I would be available to conduct worship services until the interim pastor would be available. I told her that I would be glad to do this except I do have the commitment to preach the second Sunday of each month at Jenner's Pond.

I suggested Rev. Mel Leaman could possibly do those Sundays. Mel agreed and offered to take every other Sunday to help share the preaching until the interim is available. The interim pastor will then preach until the end of the conference year, which ends on June 30th.

Beginning July 1, 2024, a new full-time pastor will be appointed by the Bishop.

What is an interim pastor?

He or she will be a short-term, temporary, intervening pastor to oversee the function of the church until a new full-time pastor is assigned. So, Rev. Mel and I are the interim pastors to the interim, who currently is not known. In scripture, I look at our situation as that of Moses. God asked Moses to do a temporary job of leading God's people out of bondage to Egypt and lead them to the promised land. His duty lasted 40 years. For Mel and I, our internship, hopefully is more like 40 days until the assigned interim takes over. Until that time, Mel and I will alternate Sundays preparing and leading Sunday worship services. We should be glad that we do not have an interim God, for our Lord is a 24/7, never-changing God who loves us, cares for us, and watches over us.

All He requires of us is to be full-time believers who worship and praise Him. Psalm 95:6-7 sums up our duty as a congregation. "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care."

Pastor Jim.



Worship in December at West Grove UMC

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



8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Worship. Live Streaming on You Tube.

February 4- Pastor Jim Mundell

"Rebranding: Life in the Spirit."

Romans 8:1-11 God from time to time, may need to do a major rebranding in our lives. We can look at it as a change in our freedom-freedom from the control of sins to spiritual freedom. Our scriptural text of Romans 8:1-11 speaks about two laws under which we all live. In this passage, Paul speaks of the Law of the Spirit of Life and the Law of Sin and Death, and this is where our rebranding needs to take place so we can live in spiritual freedom.

February 11-Pastor Mel Leaman

To Be Announced

February 14th, ASH WEDNESDAY- Pastor Jim Mundell

"Prayer and Fasting in Preparation for Easter Sunday."

Ash Wednesday Service on February 14th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary .
The service will involve the giving of ashes on the forehead or the back of one's hand.

February 18- Pastor Jim Mundell

"Standing on the Promises of God."

1st Sunday in **LENT**, preparing our hearts to celebrate Easter Sunday.

"Standing on the Promises of God." 2 Peter 1:1-9. "Standing on the Promises" is a very important part of our daily life. We live day to day on our promises. Most of us cannot live without making a promise. God is no different, except for one very important thing. God keeps His promises. He does not lie, He cannot lie. When God makes a promise, it is dependable, and we can trust it. However, it becomes ours only if we accept it. Peter, in his second epistle, has come to that point in his life when he knows he is about to die, and is writing this letter to tell how the faith of the people of God will become less and less as the end of the world draws near. Yet he expresses how the faithful are willing to "Stand on the Promises of God."

February 25-Pastor Mel Leaman

To Be Announced



WGUMC Technology Team Alert!

The WGUMC Technology Team is facing a critical situation! Nate has graduated and moved away to college, and Keith has moved to Delaware. In addition to these key personnel losses, Steve and Melanie will be leaving to hike the Pacific Coast at the end of February and will not be returning to this area. We wish them well and thank them for their support for our church family!

Steve has been the primary-brain behind the Tech Team and will be greatly missed. The Admin Board has contracted with DigiTech to do some of the work Steve has been doing for us. That takes care of part of our talent shortage. However, we as a church family we still have a significant problem. I have been doing a significant part of the PowerPoint and live-stream development for almost 5-years. I rarely have an opportunity to take a weekend off. I will be 75 on March 21st 2024. I am getting old, ugly and tired. To be honest, I am getting burned out. Nancy and I are planning to do some extensive international traveling this year and will not be available to be involved as much as we have been in the past. Therefore, after much prayer and consultation, I have made a difficult decision to step away from the weekly live-stream development and delivery.

When COVID was raging and our church was closed, live-stream was critical. However, now on an average Sunday we have 4 to 8 people who watch via live-stream, which makes it less critical to continue. The bottom line is, if no one steps up to form a new team, we will no longer be live-streaming beginning April 1 st 2024. It is also important to note that our church services will be impacted in the following ways:

- There will no longer be PowerPoint slides projected onto the screen.
- Scriptures will have to be read from the Worship Bulletin, or simply listen.
- We will have to return to the Hymnal and The Faith We Sing for our singing.
- Ministry Opportunities will only appear in the Worship Bulletin.
- Someone will need to audio or video record the Weekly Sermon to be posted on the church website. If no one steps up for that, it will leave a gaping hole in the outreach to our community.
- Even if no one steps up to learn the video/live-stream portion of this ministry, there is still an urgent need for more people to learn the Sound system. Otherwise, PraiseWorks, CMO, Special Music, RAP, Weddings, Funerals, etc. will be significantly diminished.

This has not been an easy decision for us because we understand how critical this ministry is to the success of this congregation. We have been very faithful to this congregation for the past 5-years; we simply need a break. Please pray about becoming a critical part of this ministry. Michael W. Duvall



Once again, West Grove United Methodist Church is foraging into unknown territory. Pastor Tim Anderman's last service with us was on December 31st, 2023. He is now looking forward to retirement and more freedom for he and Julie. So we are saying goodbye, once again, to the familiar while looking forward to what the future holds in store for those of us who remain.

Note of Farewell And Thanks from Pastor Tim:

Dear Friends in Christ,
Please accept our deep gratitude for your heartfelt blessings, abundant well wishes, and most generous gifts and cards as I transition into retirement.

So many of you have blessed us in these years as part of the West Grove church family.

We will continue to lift you in our prayers, and we look forward to reconnecting as friends in the future.

May you always walk with God,
Tim and Julie Anderman

PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN

Lent – A time to prepare our hearts for Easter
 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

February 2024

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which happens to be February 14th, St. Valentine's Day. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a period of self-reflection, repentance, and preparation for Easter, often involving acts of sacrifice and self-discipline. St. Valentine's Day, on the other hand, is widely celebrated as a day of love and affection, candy and flowers.

Lent is a season of Reflection on Love and Sacrifice. Jesus told us in Luke 10:27, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus tells us to Love – to love God and our fellow beings. But we are also to reflect on sacrifice – giving up or offering something that comes from our heart. Love and sacrifice.



Lent helps us prepare for the greatest Love and Sacrifice ever made. God in His love for us gave us His Son, Jesus, who offered Himself as a sacrifice, paying the penalty for our sins. 1 John 4:10, “This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” Spiritual Preparation and Renewal. It is an opportunity to renew one's commitment to love God in a deeper, more meaningful way.

The prophet Ezekiel was told by God what He would do with those coming back to Israel from captivity. God said, “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

Lent is the time to renew our hearts and spirits, to put away that heart of sin and ask God to renew us, draw us closer – and give us a heart of love and faith. Hebrews 3:12 directs us, saying, “See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.”

As we journey through Lent, preparing our hearts for the sacrifice that Jesus will offer, let us offer ourselves to God, asking Him to create a clean, pure heart within us. Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Our journey is complete when we, along with the disciples, see and accept Jesus as the Risen Lord and Savior.

Pastor Jim

Jenner's Pond Residents!

Join us for worship on February 11th, at 11 a.m.



West Grove UMC Food Pantry
Weekly Hours:
Wednesdays: 5:00—6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 1:00—2:00 p.m.

Our Church Food Bank Depends on You!

The Food Pantry opened for distribution on Sunday, January 21st between our 8:30 and 11:00 Worship Services. Those who came to partake of the offerings were also provided a tour of the church and information on how they could get involved and share in the opportunities to worship. As a result, 6 families came and were shown about WGUMC .

UMW/United Women of Faith

Our group of women met Sunday afternoon, January 14 for tea and a time of fellowship and planning for the future. Thank you, Carol McGinley, for leading us with a devotional and conversation based on Matthew 25:31-40. She ended this time leaving us with a question to ponder, What is Jesus calling you to do or be?

After a fruitful conversation, we started planning for the spring and how we as a group of women of faith may do and be what Jesus has called us to.

First, we are very grateful for the busy fall we had collecting personal care items for the food pantry and distributing Advent Bags to our dear friends. All items were greatly appreciated. In addition we remembered our college students sending them some of their favorite snacks.

As we look forward, save the date and start saving your treasured donations for our spring rummage sale scheduled for May 3rd and 4th. We are also looking forward to sending our college students more goodies and collecting feminine hygiene products for the food pantry.

We will announce more details on these collections in the near future.

In addition, we are going to start making crocheted prayer squares to have for distribution as needed and for the Advent Bags this year. If you crochet and are interested in helping make prayer squares, please let us know and we will provide you the pattern.

Our next meeting and gathering is being planned for Sunday, May 19. We are planning on a women's tea with a program for women and young girls. More information will be provided as we finalize this event.

We truly appreciate everyone's prayers and support of all we do.
 Yours in Christ, Cindy Haley and Fran Miller, Co-leaders



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



The "**Winter Doldrums**" may be a thing for some,
but they don't exist here at Preschool!

We are too busy having **FUN FUN FUN** with all kinds of winter themes!
We have explored penguins, arctic animals, winter gear, snowmen, and best of
all SNOW this month here at preschool! To top it off, we even got some of the
white stuff to play in...what could be better?!

Our Pre-k children have also been very busy
learning their letters and journaling in order to help prepare for Kindergarten!

Looking ahead we are excited to celebrate Love and Valentine's Day
with all of our Preschool Friends and to start Chapel Time with our new Youth
Pastor Xavier!

Xavier will be coming to Preschool twice a month to enjoy some time with the
preschool children.

We are happy that the children will have Xavier here to help
them grow in their journey with faith.

We are continuing to have our Pizza Kit Fundraiser every other Wednesday.
If you would like to sign up for a kit, please sign up outside of the Women's
bathroom.

Payment can be placed in Abbie Gruscavage's mailbox in the office.

If you know of anyone looking for a Preschool please send them our way!
Enrollment begins soon!

Thanks, Abbie

Retired Active People



A special thank you to Pastor Jim Mundell and Betsy Smith for stepping in and providing an impromptu concert for our December RAP Meeting.

RAP met last month on Friday, January 12th. We thank Reed and Joyce Smith for a wonderful slide presentation of their trip last year to national parks in Africa.

We are so appreciative of everyone's help each month. Thank you Colton and Austin for stacking chairs and setting up our tables. Thank you Carol, Cindy, Joan, Ray and Karen for providing desserts. We truly appreciate everyone who is able to stay to help us reset the sanctuary.

RAPs next gathering is Friday, February 9, at noon in the church sanctuary. We welcome Rev. Mark D. Moore, Retired Air Force Chaplain. Mark spent 30 years as a military chaplain, retiring in 2009. He served at every level including as an advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has been in ministry since 1975. He will share with us requirements to become a military chaplain, what the work of chaplain involves in a pluralistic environment, and answer any questions you may have on the topic.

Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and an informative program. Bring your bagged lunch and, as always, desserts and beverages are provided. Paulette Bryan will be our leader for the afternoon.



There are signup sheets at our welcome table, if you would let us know that you would like to bring a dessert or help with our setup and cleanup. We also welcome help as a greeter each month. We will begin planning our programs for our 2024-25 program year. If you have a presentation or know of one that would be of interest for our group, please let one of the committee members know.

Everyone is welcomed! Invite your friends and family and neighbors! You may RSVP to Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or 610-869-3863 so we may set up accordingly. We look forward to seeing you on February 9, 2024.

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





“Fun and Games Night”

Join Xavier for **“Fun and Games Night”** for our youth of all ages!

February 9th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Let’s bond over indoor Mini golf, scavenger hunts and ice cream sundaes.

RSVP to Xavier at 610-612-7377 or **xavierfeliciano5@gmail.com**



COOKIE BAKING PARTY;

Coming on February 16th at 6:00 pm.

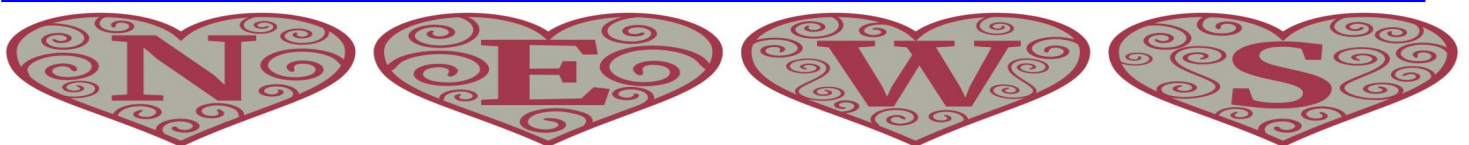
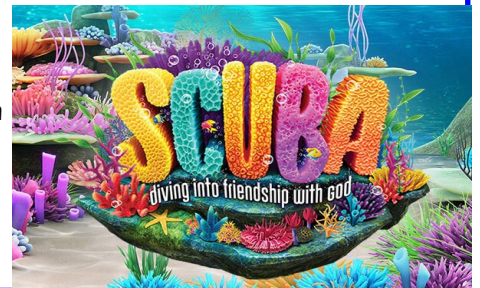
Join Xavier and youth of all ages for a SWEET night of cookie baking and decorating.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A tentative date has been set for this year’s Vacation Bible School!!

Round up your kids and grand kids and get ready to Dive into the fun on July 15th–19th.. Donations always welcomed and now being accepted. Call or email Xavier for all the details.

Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org, 610-612-7377 or call the church office at 610-869-9334.





**MEET XAVIER FELICIANO
OUR NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR**



Hi everyone,

I grew up in Kennett Square, PA. I am one of four siblings.

I grew up with both of my parents, and we attended a Pentecostal church.

My parents were firm believers of attending church and following the word.

I believe this helped shape the individual I am today because it gave me a community in which I could go to when in times of confusion or struggle.

The relationships that I built at church have helped me learn and understand more about myself and what God has done for me.

Thanks to those experiences, I have been able to live, learn, and grow not just as a Son, Sibling, or friend but as a man of God.

With the Lord working in my life everyday, I have found peace and excitement for what is to come. My short time here at West Grove UMC has been a blast.

I look forward to continuing our mission in sharing the word of God with not only our children and youth but to all who will listen.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

(2 Peter 3:18)

Xavier Feliciano

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

West Grove United Methodist Church

300 N. Guernsey Rd.

West Grove, PA 19390

610-612-7377

Africa Mission 2023-2024



The 2023 Usueni Vocational Education Center Project was to build a new Administration building. It has a very different metal roof from the other buildings.

All of the skilled trades are taught at the school so all of the masonry work was completed before the team arrived from America.

In 2023, the school was able to purchase 12 additional acres and add modern agriculture to their curriculum. It also helps to offset the food budget for the school!



The 2024 Mission Project is to build a new 20 by 30-foot kitchen for the school, for the 120 plus students currently attending.

The school is now licensed by the Kenyan National Government!

Michael Duvall

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 a.m.-9:30 a.m.** More information will be shared as plans are made. All men and boys are invited to attend. Contact Michael Duvall with your questions.



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)?



BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

02/04 Seth Michaels
 02/04 Emily Fulton
 02/05 Patricia Kilmartin
 02/05 Jeanette Stryjewski
 02/06 Mary Kilmartin
 02/06 James Kilmartin
 02/07 Tim Mullen
 02/07 Jen Dunn
 02/07 Mila Capuano
 02/09 Peter Mullen
 02/09 Cecilia Figueroa
 02/09 Sophie May
 02/10 Laura Stephenson
 2/10 Jenna Miller
 02/12 Andrew Herman
 02/12 Joan Leaman
 02/12 Olivia Rinehimer



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

02/14 Donna Fackler
 02/14 Cecily Eason
 02/16 Sydney Simonds
 02/16 Dylan Curtis
 02/17 Amy Castaldi
 02/18 Wayne Howard
 02/18 Reed Hadly
 02/18 Wesley Boyd
 02/19 Connie Simcox
 02/19 Katherine Whelan
 02/22 Yasmine Smith
 02/23 Carol McGinley
 02/26 Rachele Schneider
 02/27 Lena Douglas
 02/27 Evelyn Herrera
 02/28 Carol Hocking
 02/28 Isabella Figueroa



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OPEN • GROW • SERVE

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Our Heartfelt Thanks

We would be remiss if we did not send out our heartfelt thanks to our church family
for the kind and generous gift bestowed on us for our service
to WGUMC, in 2023.



Please know that **we all truly appreciated it.**



Donna Fackler, Abbie Gruscavage, April Spencer, Betsy

Smith, Xavier Feliciano, Pastor Tim, Pastor Jim, Maira Tena, Peggy Watkins.

February 2024

~ 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.*

pastor@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Staff

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
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Donna Fackler—Financial Administra-
tor
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Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Direc-
tor
Contemporary Music Interim Director
Keyboardist
Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Lavenia Civitella—Handbell Choir Direc-
tor

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

Michael Duvall—Tech Team Leader
Christian Education

Children's Ministry Team Contact

Valerie Kapp-Benner - Missions Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Susan Paisley - 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

Betty Mundell—Ad Council Member at Large

Cindy Hoover—
CMO Advisory
Board Chair