

# The Wesleyan Star 2024

**West Grove  
United Methodist Church**

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West Grove, Pa. 19390

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## Letter from the Pastor

Psalm 29:11 May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

May brings us Ascension Day, the completion of the Easter Season, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday when we settle back into Ordinary time. Ordinary Time, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent.

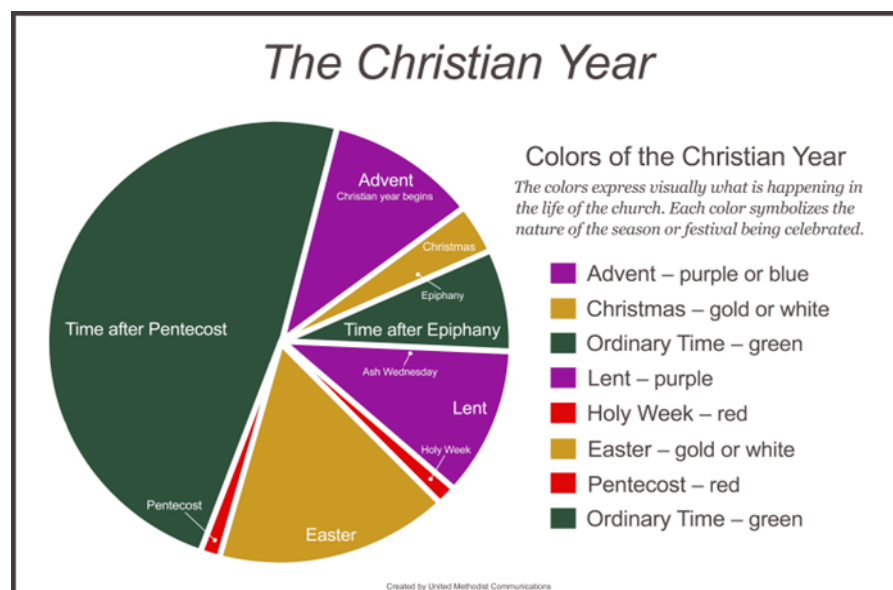
The UMC follows the liturgical Christian year which includes two central cycles focused on major events in the life of Christ: the Christmas cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and Easter cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost).

Each of these seasons begins with a time of preparation and anticipation followed by a time of celebration. A season designated as Ordinary Time follows each cycle.

The word “ordinary” here does not mean “routine” or “not special” Instead, it refers to the ‘ordinary numbers’ (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Third Sunday after Epiphany).

The first period of Ordinary Time, called the Season after Epiphany, begins on Epiphany Day and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). The central theme of this season is the calling of disciples and the early ministry of Jesus.

We will be entering the second period of Ordinary Time, the Season after Pentecost, which follows the Easter cycle. The purpose of this season is to support new disciples and the whole congregations in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter Season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost. Let us prayerfully prepare ourselves for this season of celebrating the teaching and ministry of Jesus.





# Worship in May at West Grove UMC

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



7:30 am. & 11 am. Worship. 9:45 am. Sunday School for all ages.

## Sermon Series: How Shall We Love

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> - Sermon Title: "We Love One Another"**

**Focus Scriptures: 1 John 5: 1-6 & John 15: 9-17**

My goal is for everyone to understand that obeying God can be as simple as loving all people - no matter who they are and demonstrating this with our actions.

**1 John 5:1-6** <sup>5</sup> Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup> By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup> For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup> for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup> This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**John 15:9-17** <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> - Sermon Title: "We Share Christ"**

**Focus Scripture: 1 John 5: 9-13 & John 17: 6-19**

My goal is for us all to know we need the opportunity to submit ourselves as individuals and as a community to the work of living in peace with one another, working together toward the flourishing of all people.

**1 John 5:9-13** <sup>9</sup> If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup> Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup> And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup> I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

**John 17: 6-19** <sup>6</sup> "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me,

so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given<sup>3</sup> me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

## **Sunday, May 19, Pentecost - Sermon Title: "The Bones Will Live"**

### **Focus Scripture: Ezekiel 37: 1-14 & Acts 2: 1-21**

My goal is for us to evaluate what looks to be dying in our church and in our lives and trust the Spirit to take what seems lifeless and breathe abundant life into being.

**Ezekiel 37:1-14** <sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you now." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD." <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

**Acts 2: 1-21** <sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. <sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup> Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup> All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." <sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

## Sermon Series: Ascribe to God

**Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** Sermon Title: "All-Consuming Presence"

**Focus Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8**

My goal is for us all to consciously look for God's presence in worship and in our daily lives.

<sup>6</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup> The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"



“SEEKING GOD IN TIMES OF OUR NEED”

Deepening Your Relationship with God

**May 2024**

David, King of Israel, loved God, and when he was going through rough times, he leaned on God to give him strength and courage. We sometimes need to do the same thing, calling upon God and expressing hope in Him. Psalms 62 and 63 give some insight as to how David felt about God and you. We should take note, for we also will need the care of Him who has control over everything that happens. Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8 helps give us hope as we wait upon God. <sup>1</sup> Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. <sup>2</sup> Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. <sup>5</sup> Yes, my soul finds rest in God; my hope comes from him. <sup>6</sup> Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. <sup>7</sup> My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. <sup>8</sup> Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. These verses give us confidence in God when we may

be going through various trials and temptations, as James tells us in James 1-2-3. Psalm

62: 1-2 sets the tone for this psalm, highlighting the deep trust and peace that David finds in God. Despite external circumstances, David's soul finds rest in God, who is the source and Rock of our salvation. Verses 5-8 echo the theme of finding rest and hope in God alone. David repeats the affirmation of God as his Rock, salvation, and fortress, emphasizing that our well-being depends on God's protection. We also see a call to trust in God continuously and to pour out our hearts to Him.

It encourages a deep, intimate relationship with God, recognizing Him as our refuge in all circumstances.

Psalm 63:1-4 speaks to our desire to have God as part of our daily lives. You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. <sup>2</sup> I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. <sup>3</sup> Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. <sup>4</sup> I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. This is David's confession of a longing for God and for the security His presence offers us in times of need. Psalm 63:6-8 teaches us that we should be in prayer at night as we rest. <sup>6</sup> On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. <sup>7</sup> Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. <sup>8</sup> I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.



How can these verses help us when we are in need?

**Remembering God:** David reflects on remembering God, especially during times of rest (on the bed) and in moments of wakefulness (watches of the night).

**Meditation:** The act of meditating on God implies deep reflection, prayer, and seeking His presence.

**Acknowledging God's Help:** David acknowledges God as our source of help.

**Finding Refuge:** The imagery of being under the shadow of God's wings is powerful. It portrays finding safety, comfort, and protection in God's presence.

**Joyful Response:** Despite troubles, David sings for joy. Indicating a deep trust and confidence in God's ability to uphold and sustain, giving us a sense of inner peace and joy.

We all need to cultivate a habit of remembering and meditating on God's promises, acknowledging His role as the ultimate source of help. I trust you may want to read and meditate on these two Psalms by David to give you assurance of God's love and help.

Pastor Jim.

# Key Decisions Made at General Conference

**Regionalization:** This seeks to create a more contextual church by creating the U.S. and each Central Conference across Africa, Europe, and the Philippines into regions where the churches in those regions will shape their ministry contextually. The new regions are: US, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines.

While this passed at the General Conference, because this is a constitutional amendment, ratification will require a 2/3 aggregate vote of every Annual Conference. This process will most likely take two years. It is not clear yet whether the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference will vote on this in our May 21-23 Annual Conference or if it will be held off until 2025.

There were concerns about the unfortunate inadequate representation from central conferences due to travel and visa challenges. The amendment would have passed even if all absent delegates had opposed it.

**Ban on Gay Clergy Repealed:** On April 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, after prayerful and thoughtful conversation in legislative committees, The General Conference (the highest legislative body of The United Methodist Church) deepened and furthered the church's ministry with all people including the LGBTQ+ community. Many of the restrictions date back to action by the General Conference in the early 1980's. The following are the actions taken by this General Conference.

- \* Removed the denomination's ban on the ordination of clergy who are "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." This will take effect on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 (at the close of the postponed 2020 General Conference).
- \* Clarified churches will not be compelled to receive a gay pastor.
- \* Permits pastors and local churches to make decisions on conducting same gender weddings.
- \* The Council of Bishops are to be inclusive of gender, race, ethnicity, age, people with disabilities, sexual orientation and economic condition in naming representatives to ecumenical organizations.
- \* Eliminated the ban on funding the promotion of ministry with and by LGBTQ+ persons.



We will be meeting as a congregation on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to



## MEET WITH US FOR AN OPEN DISCUSSION ON THESE DECISIONS

We will be meeting as a congregation on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm. to review Annual Conference legislation that we need your input on before attending May 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. We can also discuss questions you may have around the General Conference. Our delegates are Susan Paisley and Cindy Haley. We will be joined by New London UMC who will independently decide on how their congregation will vote. Their lay delegate is Stewart Gantt, CLM.

## Retired Active People



## RAP

(Retired Active People)

Join us on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at noon in the church sanctuary as we gather for a potluck luncheon to celebrate the end of this program year. We are excited to welcome back the Providence Brass Band to entertain us with their musical talents.

Bring your favorite luncheon dish to share with others. Desserts and beverages will be provided. We truly thank everyone who helps make our monthly gatherings possible. We continue to meet the second Friday each month from September through May.

We thank Charles Shattuck of Wild Birds Unlimited for our program in April with helpful tips to keep squirrels out of our bird feeders. Thank you Sara Ann for being our April leader, and, thank you to all who provided our desserts.

Everyone is welcome to join us each month as we meet for an enjoyable afternoon of fun and fellowship. We will resume in September for another great year of fellowship and good programming. We are still looking for a few more programs. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for our luncheon in May. Please RSVP to Sara Ann Ramberger at sar57ver@verizon.net or at 610-869-3863 so we may setup and plan accordingly.

All are welcome!

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

### A NOTE OF THANKS

**I would like to thank the committee for the beautiful Easter decorations that adorned our church during the Easter Holiday.**

**Everyone worked so hard to ready the church for Easter.**

**It is greatly appreciate. Thank you to all those listed below who gave their time and energy so generously:**

**Priscilla Barkman, Joyce Lewis, Xavier Feliciano, Miranda, Paulette Bryan, Virgil and Linda Brown, Michale Brown, Caryl Stuhrke, Brent Hazelwood and Heather & Bill Ditzel.**

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

**Linda Shiplet**



# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S SPRING TEA

You are invited to join us for an afternoon tea and light desserts on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Church Lobby and Sanctuary. We look forward to gathering for a delightful afternoon to celebrate with all the lovely ladies (younger and older) in our congregation and lives.



Following a time of refreshments and fellowship, we are excited to

welcome an amazing storyteller, Diane Albertson. Diane will entertain us with a whimsical story that incorporates various Mother Goose characters, along with the stories of Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachael, Rahab and Mary.

Be prepared to enjoy a time of laughter and fun!

All women of the church, your family, friends and loved ones are invited for an enjoyable afternoon.





## **WGUM CHURCH BONFIRE**

Come one, come all to a WGUMC Bonfire

**May 10th, from 6—8 pm.**

Come enjoy:

the **Music,**



**Smares,**

**BBQ**



**and more.**

**Hosted by Xavier and our Youth Group.**

## **VACATION BIBLE** **SCHOOL**

It's coming up quickly.....Round up your kids and grand kids and get ready to Dive into the fun on July 15<sup>th</sup>—19<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers are needed and donations are always welcomed and are 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.





## 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!**

We have been serving an average of 110 families per week. Although we get the large majority of our food from the Chester County Food Bank, tortillas are the most sought after food item. We receive a very limited amount tortillas from the food bank. Consequently, we have been purchasing them for the past few months and will continue to do so. The cost per month is \$450 and we rely on contributions to pay for them. If you would like to give to the church food pantry for the purchase of tortillas, please just make your check out to the church or give cash and note on the envelope that it is for the church food pantry.

We were thrilled to receive two shopping carts full of donated grocery items from the Penn Township polling booth on Election Day.

As always, we thank you for your support of this ministry to our community.



## Healing Racism—Becoming the Beloved Community Group

**Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm.**

Join us in the sanctuary to share some dessert and plan for the future studies and actions for:

"Healing Racism: Becoming the Beloved Community Group."

All are welcome! Contact Peter Mullen at [psmullen@petermullen.com](mailto:psmullen@petermullen.com) or Mel Leaman at [melleaman50@gmail.com](mailto:melleaman50@gmail.com) with any questions.

## 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](http://www.westgroveumc.org)





## Spring has sprung and so has the rainy weather!

While its true that April showers bring May flowers  
we are more than ready for bright sunny days so we can play outside  
and enjoy the playground!

Our Preschool Friends have been busy learning about flowers, the weather, bugs, butterflies and many other fun and exciting topics this month. They worked hard to finish up their artwork for our art show and their masterpieces were on display in the sanctuary for all to enjoy! The art show is a fundraiser for the Preschool and it never fails to disappoint with a tremendous amount of people coming out in support! Thank you all who came out to see the children's art and who donated a sweet treat to our bake sale. We appreciate you!

We will finish up the month of April with a field trip to Baily's Dairy Farm! We can't wait to see all of the farm animals, help feed and take care of them, and to finish out the trip with a refreshing glass of delicious chocolate milk!

Looking ahead to May, we will celebrate our PreK graduates on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> with a graduation ceremony, followed by some treats out on the playground. We are so incredibly proud of all of our students and we know that they will do great things moving on to Kindergarten! We will miss them all so much!

All the best-

Abbie



*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

*Ngoy and I send you greetings of hope, renewal, and abundant blessings from Morogoro, Tanzania. As we continued to celebrate Christ's resurrection, may His victory over death and sin be a beacon of light and inspiration in our lives.*

*May the message of Easter fill your hearts with joy and your spirits with courage as we continue to spread the love of Christ.*

*As we reflect on our mission last year 2023, we are filled with joy and gratitude for wonderful blessings and opportunities that we have been able to do in our mission field. We are excited to share with you some high-*

## Growth and Expansion of the School

The year 2023 has been a season of growth and expansion for our Wesley Pre and Primary School. We have seen an increase of students and teachers. We also built one more classroom to accommodate the increasing number of students. Your partnership with us has enabled us reach more families with the message of hope.



Ms Grace Balaajju joined Wesley Primary school in 2023. She and some of our students are standing in front of one of the classrooms built in 2023.



**Women Center under construction**

The construction of the women center in Kibirizi, Kigoma, is in progress. The vision for this center is to provide a safe and empowering space for women in the community to receive education, support, and resources for personal and professional development.

Construction update: The foundation has been laid, and the walls are starting to take shape, bringing us one step closer to realizing our vision for this important facility.

As we continue to work towards the completion of the women's center, we invite you to join us in prayer and support for this important initiative.

## Morogoro Pastors Training School

Morogoro Pastors School continue to be a transformative initiative that equips and empowers local pastors to serve their communities with passion and commitment. Last year, we had 17 student pastors coming from different part of Tanzania. We are thrilled to have more women student pastors than we have had in the past years. We are grateful for this positive changed and are encouraged by the growing support and empowerment of women in the church.

## Suzannah Wesley Education & Training Center

Last years, we have successfully trained 15 women in the art of sewing and provided them with valuable skills to create beautiful garments. Our students have not only learned the technical aspects of sewing but have also gained confidence and a sense of empowerment through their newfound abilities. We have seen firsthand the positive impact that this training has had on the lives of these women and their families.

Many of them have already started their own small businesses and are supporting their families in meaningful ways.

After completing sewing training, Mrs. Agnes acquired her own place of work. Now she has an income to support herself and her family.



## Outreach Ministry—Maasai

We continue to immerse ourselves in the Masai culture, building relationships with the community members and providing much-needed educational resources and spiritual support. One of the most significant achievements was repairing wells that were in bad shape so they can continue to provide clean and safe drinking water to the communities. Furthermore, we continue to strengthened the educational program to enable the Maasai children receive quality education, breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy. Through these efforts, we have seen a renewed sense of hope among children, as they embrace new opportunities for growth and development.

### Empowering Women

Throughout 2023, we had impactful seminars. Through these seminars, we have witnessed an increase in confidence, leadership skills, and involvement of women in various aspects of ministry. As a result, we have seen more women stepping up to leadership roles, sharing their gifts and talents, and making a significant impact within their communities. These seminars have not only empowered women but have also strengthened our mission and outreach efforts, allowing us to reach more individuals and families with the love and hope of the Gospel. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to seeing the continued growth and transformation that empowering women brings to the society. However, transportation has been a significant challenge when reaching rural areas, where access to basic services and resources is limited. Despite this difficulty, we expressed gratitude for God's provision of travel mercies, acknowledging the protection and guidance received during challenging journeys. Serving in these remote areas brought immense joy and fulfillment, as the missionary witnessed the positive impact of their work on the local community.

*To support our missions and salaries, please make a check payable to ADVANCE GCFA. Write Ngoy or Umba or the project name and the Advance number on the memo line of your check. Then mail your check to: Advance GCFA P.O. Box 9068 New York, NY 10087.*

*You can also give online by going to: <https://umcmmission.org/about-the-advance/>*

**Ngoy**—Advance# 15162Z

**Umba** - Advance # 14211Z

**Morogoro Pastors Training School** – Advance# 3022261

**Wesley Primary School** – Advance# 3020704

**Susannah Wesley Education and Health Center**—Advance# 3020705

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 MAY

05/01 Jay Miller  
 05/04 Kim Weingarten  
 05/05 Jeremy Hampton  
 05/05 Margee Michaels  
 05/06 Sandy Deckard  
 05/07 Julie Hughes  
 05/09 Dalton Wolfe  
 05/11 Dr. Bob Hates  
 05/12 Dan Elliott  
 05/12 Norah Timm  
 05/13 Jack Frost  
 05/14 Emmett Owens  
 05/15 Olivia Eason  
 05/15 Margaret Rubincan  
 05/16 Brenna Lynne Dunn  
 05/16 Coby van Snik



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

05/17 Barb O'Brien  
 05/17 Nolan Timm  
 05/18 Scott Weingarten  
 05/20 Tyler Curtis  
 05/22 Cynthia Hoover  
 05/22 Steve Michaels  
 05/23 Jeff Laird  
 05/24 Mark Simonds  
 05/24 Barry Wolff  
 05/25 Esther Culbertson  
 05/26 Cindy Haley  
 05/26 Joshua Hampton  
 05/26 Luke Schneider  
 05/28 Greg McCummings  
 05/29 Vivian Paisley



West Grove United Methodist Church  
OPEN • GROW • SERVE

May 2024



**DO YOU RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY (WGUMC)  
CONSTANT CONTACT EMAILS?**

We publish a Weekly West Grove Wednesday edition and 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](mailto: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

Janice L Bowers, Interim Pastor  
[pastorjaniceb@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjaniceb@gmail.com)

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor,  
Chaplain at Jenner's Pond  
[Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org)

Xavier Feliciano - Youth & Children's Ministry  
Director  
[Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org)

April Spencer - Church Administrator  
[Office@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Office@westgroveumc.org)

Valerie Kapp-Benner—Financial Administrator  
[Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org)

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director  
Contemporary Music Interim Director  
Keyboardist  
[Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org](mailto:Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org)

Lavenia Civitella—Handbell Choir Director  
[Misslavenia@verizon.net](mailto:Misslavenia@verizon.net)

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

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

### Christ Servant Ministers

Karen Hruz, [khruz@hotmail.com](mailto:khruz@hotmail.com)  
Peter Mullen, [psmullen@petermullen.com](mailto: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—Christian Education

Children's Ministry Team Contact

Valerie Kapp-Benner - 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

Betty Mundell—Ad Council Member at Large

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

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