

PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN

The Cross: The Wisdom and Power of God June 2025

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Cor. 1:18 (NIV)

Have you ever noticed that God often works in ways that don't make sense to the world? That's exactly what the Apostle Paul is talking about in 1 Corinthians 1:18. To many people, the idea that Jesus died on a cross to save us doesn't seem wise or powerful—it seems foolish or weak. But Paul says that for those who believe, the cross is the Wisdom and Power of God.

So, what is the message of the cross?

It's this: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to earth, lived a sinless life, and chose to die on a cross to take the punishment for our sins. Then He rose from the dead, defeating sin and death forever. Through His sacrifice, anyone who puts their trust in Him, as the Son of God, who died for our sins, is forgiven and made right with God. That's the Good News of the cross and the Gospel.

To the world, this might not make sense. It doesn't follow human logic or power. Why would God save people by dying? Why would love look like a sacrifice? But this is how God works—through grace, not force--through humility, not pride.

For new believers, this message may be new or surprising. For longtime Christians, it's easy to take it for granted. But whether you're just starting to follow Jesus or have walked with Him for years, we all need to remember the power of the cross. It changes lives. It gives us hope. It shows us the heart of God.

So don't be ashamed of your faith. Don't worry if others don't understand. Keep trusting Jesus. Keep learning. And keep living out the message of the cross—with love, humility, and joy. Because in Christ, we see what real power and wisdom look like. Perhaps Romans 1:16 may help you verbalize your faith.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.”

As you reflect on this, let me ask you, what does the message of the cross mean to you personally, and how can you live out that message in your daily life?

Pastor Jim



Pastor DJ's Sermon Series for June

Ruth: Turn My Mourning into Dancing June

June 1 – “The Blessed Redeemer” – Ruth 2:14-23

June 8 – “I am Ruth, your servant.” – Ruth 3:1-10

June 15 – “Don’t go back empty-handed.” – Ruth 3:11-18

June 22 – “The Restorer of Life” – Ruth 4:1-22

Jonah: God’s Relentless Love

June 29 - “Away from the Presence of the Lord” Jonah:1:1-10

VISION TEAM

Join us on Sunday, June 8th

After the worship service (9:30) for an all congregational meeting at which time, WGUMC’s Vision Team will present a new vision for WGUMC.

A survey will be in June 8th’s bulletin which you can fill out and place in the giving boxes after the meeting. Your feed back is important to all of us.



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

The United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Safe Sanctuaries Training Sat Jun 7th 9:30am-12pm

This training is for anyone who requires training in Safe Sanctuaries in our churches or as a refresher course. We will discuss policy writing and best practices for both children & older and vulnerable adults. Please join us! Register here. Questions?

Reach out to Rev. Jacqueline D. Daniszewski at epasafesanctuaries@epagnj.org

WORSHIP SERVICE 9:27 AM. YOUTH GROUP TUESDAY, 6 TO 7 PM.

Our giving (offering) is an essential part of our faith journey. Sacrificial giving reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. It represents our own sacrifice in following Jesus, helps us grow and mature in our faith, strengthens our spirituality, maintains our spiritual health, and serves as a sign of our commitment to Jesus through West Grove United Methodist Church. It is also a central part of our worship.

However, new people — those who are "unchurched" — may feel uncomfortable during the collection of the offering. Significant number of church members give monthly or quarterly, annually as well.

Therefore, I would like to introduce a change in the way we collect our offerings. On the first Sunday of June, we will no longer collect offerings during worship. Instead, you may place your offering in the designated boxes by the door of the sanctuary.

During worship, we will continue to have an offertory moment (music) to reflect on how our giving reflects our daily lives. We will present our offering by singing the doxology and praying for God's blessing over it.

I pray that our giving will become stronger and healthier through this change.

DJ



Beginning the first Sunday in June . . .
Look for this stand by the entry
doors to the sanctuary.



AMAZING
A B C BEGINNERS
 COLORFUL

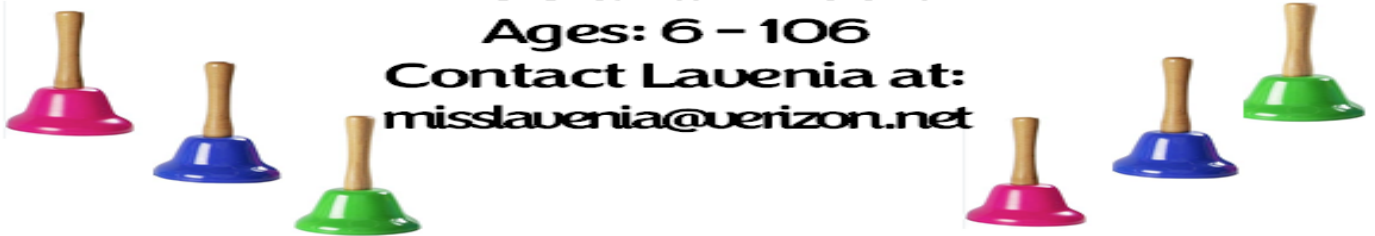
RINGERS

HANDBELL CAMP

Every Tuesday
 July 15TH Thru August 19TH
 11:00 am. - Noon

Ages: 6 - 106

Contact Lavenia at:
misslavenia@verizon.net



Vacation Bible School at West Grove UMC



July 7th - 11th
 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Volunteer Sign up sheet in the narthex - Speak with Xavier for more
details.childdirector@westgroveumc.org



West Grove 3v3 Basketball Showdown 🏆 Hosted at West Grove United Methodist Church

Get ready to bring your game to the court!

Join us for our First Annual 3v3 Basketball Showdown on Friday, June 27th at 5:00 PM

📍 All ages welcome – youth, adults, and mixed teams!

Think you've got what it takes?

Form your squad and compete for the ultimate bragging rights and the “Spirit & Hustle Trophy” the first ever award honoring heart, teamwork, and pure court energy.



Teams must register by Monday, June 24th Spaces are limited, so don't wait!

Whether you're playing or just cheering from the sidelines, it's going to be a night of fun, faith, and fierce competition.



Location: West Grove United Methodist Church



Food • Music • Prizes • Community Vibes



To register Today:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uyS7qakimztS28z78xoBWpgvfzoLUZ2qgHR7-Zweua8/preview>

Xavier Feliciano

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

West Grove United Methodist Church

610-612-7377

childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org





Dear Friends at West Grove UMC,

I am honored and grateful to have had the privilege and opportunity to serve our Lord Jesus at WGUMC for the past nineteen years.

Thank you United Women in Faith for your love and support in all of our areas of service. I will treasure your friendship and the beautiful plaque you gave me at our last meeting. Your kind words and prayers are humbly appreciated. Thank you fellow RAP Committee and members for the delicious cake at our last gathering and the special music by the Providence Brass Band. My heart overflows with joy and gratitude for having been a part of these vital ministries.

I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy."
Philippians 1:4 (CEB)

My new address and contact information is:
609 Highway 466, # 1132
Lady Lake, FL 32159
chaley526@gmail.com
609-410-6826

Thank you for being such an integral part of my life. May God continue to bless each of you and West Grove UMC in your mission and ministry.

"The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you all." 2 Timothy 4:22 (CEB)
With heartfelt sincerity, Cindy Haley



THANK YOU

Well done, my good and faithful servant. Matthew 25:21

**Thank you, Cindy Haley,
for your dedication, commitment and unwavering service to West Grove United
Methodist Church.**

It's been a pleasure serving with you.

You will be missed.

Retired Active People (RAP)

RAP met last month on May 9 for a covered dish luncheon to end our 2024/2025 program year. We were, once again, blessed to enjoy the musical talents of the Providence Brass Band as they entertained us with many favorites.

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the end of this season with lots of good food and desserts, and a great afternoon of fellowship. Thank you, Colton McCummings, for setting up our tables throughout the year. Thank you, Mike Duvall and Joan Leaman, for taking care of our visual and audio needs. We thank and truly appreciate everyone's help throughout the year with many delicious desserts and help with our cleanup after lunch.

We are in the process of lining up our programs for the 2025/2026 season beginning in September. Mark your calendars to join us when we return on September 12th at noon in the church sanctuary. Bring your bagged lunch and enjoy provided desserts and beverages.

We have the following programs lined up when we return. On September 12th, Ray McKay, will speak about Crisis in Emergency Services; October 10th, Mel Leaman will entertain us with Crooner Music; November 14th, Dick Stuhrke will share highlights of Spain and Portugal; and December 12th, join us for another covered dish luncheon as we enjoy a Christmas Sing-a-Long program led by Betsy Smith and Pastor Jim Mundell.

We look forward to seeing everyone when we return on September 12th. Please extend an invitation to family, friends and neighbors, and join us for a great afternoon of food, fun and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Look for a reminder and full lineup of our program year in a summer newsletter.

See you in September!

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



United Women in Faith

Formerly United Methodist Women

A great group of ladies met on Sunday, April 27. A devotion on hospitality was offered by Shirley Daddario, followed by a time of fellowship with a craft and get to know each other activity led by Joan Leaman. Thank you everyone who attended for an enjoyable and fun gathering. At this meeting new leadership was approved. The new UWF leaders are:

Shirley Daddario, President // Cindy Hoover, Vice-President

Paulette Bryan, Secretary // Sharon Nesbitt, Treasurer

The ministry of UWF will be featured in church on Sunday, June 8. All women are invited to participate in activities and gatherings planned by the United Women of Faith. Look for more information to be provided on June 8.

With that said, we had a very successful Spring Rummage Sale. We raised \$3,795! These monies will support various local and global ministries. We are truly grateful for all the donations and the dedicated women who worked tirelessly throughout the week and the sale which added greatly to its success. Many thanks to the men who helped during the week and with cleanup on Saturday.

This past year we were blessed to support eleven college students with boxes of goodies and a small Christmas gift. We look forward to continuing this, along with the Christmas Advent Bags in the fall.

Set your calendar for the Fall Rummage Sale scheduled October 3 and 4. Start cleaning out this summer and put donations aside for the next sale. If you have any questions or desires to be more involved with the ministry and programming of the United Women of Faith, please reach out to any of the new officers.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15: This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



West Grove UMC Food Pantry

Weekly Hours:

Wednesdays: 5:00—6:00 pm.

Thursdays: 1:00—2:00 pm.

Thank you to West Grove Fire Company.

And the Chester County Food Bank



Food Pantry

Food Pantry Update

We continue to register families for our food pantry. At this point, almost 400 families have registered since last July. About 110 families receive food from us each week. We also added a few new volunteers this past month. Volunteers help on Wednesday mornings when the truck brings our delivery from the Chester County Food Bank, pick-up rescued food from Acme, Giant and the West Chester Food Cupboard, stock shelves, break-down cardboard and assist the families when they come to shop Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. If you aren't already volunteering, and would like to, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net).



KETCHUP & MUSTARD - FOOD PANTRY

During June, we will be collecting ketchup and mustard to have available to our Food Pantry families. As we are serving over 100 families a month, 16 ounces or less would be perfect. Who can get by without ketchup and mustard in the summer time? Our May collection of Dog/Cat Food was very well received by our families.

FLOWER GARDEN WATERING SCHEDULE

In order to keep our church flower beds lovely all summer, we need volunteers to water them.

A sign-up sheet is in the church lobby for you to offer your help.

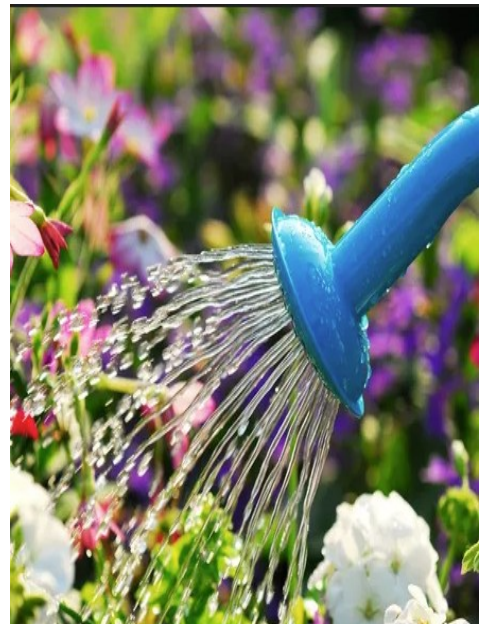
You can sign-up for a week or

two, include your phone number, and you will receive a text reminder. Please try to water the

flowers every other day, unless we receive sufficient rain. Any questions, please contact Joan

Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net).

Thanks!





It is so bittersweet that we have reached the end of our school year!

The month of May was full of fun and learning as the children participated in the schoolwide Trike-a-Thon Fundraiser, raised caterpillars and watched as they went through their lifecycle and turned into beautiful butterflies, created beautiful and thoughtful Mother's Day gifts for their moms, and practiced and performed their sweet songs for their end of the year celebrations. It was a short month but we managed to squeeze it all in, and now we are all ready for a relaxing and fun summer.

As always it was a bittersweet moment when we held our graduation ceremony for our Pre-Kindergarten children who are moving on up to KINDERGARTEN next year! We had many proud teachers, parents, grandparents, friends, and family in attendance for this special day. I know that our graduating class is prepared and ready to take on whatever comes their way as they move on. We are lucky to have the best children and families here at WGUMC Preschool.

I want to thank our Preschool Staff for putting their all in when it comes to the children. It's truly all for the kids!

Have a great summer,

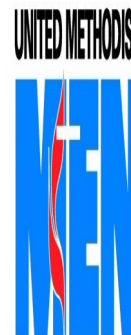
The United Methodist Men hold a monthly breakfast at the church. There is time for scripture, sharing, some speakers and lots of fellowship.

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 JUNE

06/03 Dave Talley
06/04 Natalie Eason
06/05 David Lytle
06/07 Jordan Howard
06/18 Jeff Curtis
06/18 Melanie Jones



06/20 Ralph Curtiss
06/23 Alison Aucott
06/25 Maryanne Covington
06/25 Keira O'Neil
06/27 Heather McCummings

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



June 2025



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 Saturday Sneak-a-Peek about the sermon on Sunday and other information, including our newsletter, and a link to the current week's bulletin.

If you are not receiving these two emails, perhaps you elected to unsubscribe or they are being treated as spam and are going directly to trash.

If you are missing out and would like to be on the list, email April Spencer, our Church Administrator, at office@westgroveumc.org or call the office at 610-869-9334. She will be happy to add you to the list!

~ 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

Bill Pardoe—Technical Magician
billpardoe1@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship Service
9:27 am.

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

OPEN - Trustee Chair

Vicki Owens - Treasurer

Dan Elliott - SPRC Chair

Children's Ministry Team Contact

Open - Missions Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Open - Delegate to Annual Conference

Open - Committee on Lay Leadership

Karen Hruz - Lay Leader

Shirley Daddario - U.W.F. President

Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator

Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator

Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator

Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair

Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinator