



Clean Rich Christians: How Can I Go Through the Eye of a Needle?

Sep 28	"The Money for Christians"	Deuteronomy 15:4-5, 11
Oct 5	"The Life in Freedom from Desire"	Galatians 5:16-24
Oct 12	"The Abundance Happiness in Sharing"	Matthew 6:25-29
Oct 19	"The Sacred Calling"	John 5:17
Oct 26	"The True Power that Changing the World"	1 Corinthians 1:27-29

Can Christians who enjoy wealth remain pure?

We cannot help but wrestle with this question, for we know well that God has called us not to a life of wealth, but to a life of holiness.

The roots of Protestantism go back to the Puritans. True to their name, the Puritans longed to be "pure" in their faith. They shed much blood to break away from the corruption of the old church, entangled with money and power, in order to reform it and proclaim the pure teachings of Jesus.

But today, are we Methodists or Protestant Christians truly pure when it comes to money? Do we not covet power? We live in the United States, the superpower of the 21st century, enjoying prosperity and wealth beyond that of any other nation. And yet, are we living lives of faith that are pure? Through the church, is our society being challenged and transformed? Or, like the world, have we fallen into money and power, neglecting our true calling—the mission of our Lord, to save lives and souls?

This fall, we will take time to reflect on the issue of money. For money is one of the most powerful forces that can draw us away from God and from holiness. My hope is that together we will wrestle with what it means to be truly pure and faithful as wealthy Christians, and how we might pass through the eye of the needle.

PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN

"Forty" – Testing To Transformation

According to BibleStudy.org, in the King James Version, the word "forty" appears: 134 times in the Old Testament and 24 times in the New Testament, for a total occurrence of 158 times in both Testaments combined.

"Forty" carries deep symbolic significance in the Bible, and it's one of the most frequently used numbers in Scripture. While it is sometimes used literally, it often also represents a period of testing, trial, preparation or transition. Here are some key examples:



In the Old Testament...

- ☐ The Flood – It rained for forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7:12).
- ☐ Moses' Life – His life is divided into three periods of 40 years: in Egypt, in Midian, and leading Israel (Acts 7:23, 30, 36).
- ☐ On Mount Sinai – Moses spent forty days and nights fasting while receiving the Law, the Ten Commandments (Exodus 24:18).
- ☐ The Spies in Canaan – The spies explored the Promised Land for forty days (Numbers 13:25).
- ☐ Israel's Wandering – Israel wandered forty years in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33–34).
- ☐ Goliath's Challenge – Goliath taunted Israel for forty days (1 Samuel 17:16).
- ☐ Jonah's prophecy of judgment - gave 40 days to the city of Nineveh in which to repent or be destroyed.

In the New Testament...

- ☐ Jesus' Temptation – Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for forty days and nights (Matthew 4:2).
- ☐ Resurrection Appearances – After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into heaven (Acts 1:3).

Symbolic Meaning

- ☐ Testing/Trial – A period where faithfulness is proved (Israel in the desert, Jesus in the wilderness).
- ☐ Preparation – God often uses 40 to prepare someone for a mission (Moses, Elijah, Jesus).
- ☐ Transition/Change – After a forty-period, a new phase of God's work usually begins. After the flood, a new beginning took place.

For us as Christians today, "forty" reminds us that seasons of testing are not wasted seasons. They are God's way of shaping us, strengthening our faith, and preparing us for new beginnings. Just as Jesus emerged from the wilderness empowered by the Holy Spirit, so too can we emerge from trials with renewed purpose and deeper trust in God. So, in biblical thought, forty often marks a time of testing that leads to transformation.

Pastor Jim



52-WEEK BIBLE VERSE MEMORY CHALLENGE!

Memory Challenge designed to help each of us meditate on the character of God and Jesus throughout the year.

Every week, you'll receive a carefully selected Bible verse from either the Old or New Testaments, focusing on the character of God and Jesus, salvation, grace, mercy, love, and peace. These powerful promises and truths will encourage your spirit, strengthen your walk with Christ, and enrich your daily life.

Whether you're a longtime believer or just beginning your spiritual journey, memorizing or meditating on Scripture is a wonderful way to anchor your heart and mind in God's Word.

How to Participate:

- *Look for the weekly verse shared during our worship services, in the bulletin, and in our Constant Contact communications.
- *Take time during the week to meditate or memorize the verse.
- *Write out the verse each day during the week to help with your understanding of how the verse applies to your daily walk.
- *Use the verse at our weekly meetings and at the Bible study groups.
- *Share your favorite verses and how God is working in your life!

Let's grow together as a community rooted in God's Word—one verse at a time. Get ready for a year filled with hope, encouragement, and spiritual growth!

Blessings, Pastor Jim.



United Methodist Women

Save This Date!

Sunday, November 9, 2025 1:30pm.

Whether you are in your golden years, or younger, or journeying alongside a loved one, this season is a precious gift. Our golden years is a time to mentor and inspire and a time of reflection and renewed purpose. Psalm 92:14 says, "They will still bear fruit in old age."

Did you realize our church and community are strengthened by the experience, faith and resilience of those in their golden years and that one's stories are vital to our church family?

Our special guest, author, Ann Yeager, will grace us, the United Women in Faith, and all ladies, to talk about, "Finding Peace In The Golden Years Or Any Age." She'll talk about lies we believe, our fears, our identity, and purpose in life.

Ann Yeager, is a worship assistant, leads an active women's ministry, mentors women and has a prophetic, healing, prayer ministry.

Her passion is to share the Father's heart and to help others deal with the day-to-day stressors of life. She has a degree in education and completed Global School of Supernatural Ministry's Summer Intensive School.

She and her husband, Chuck, live in Ephrata, PA. They have two adult children, Justin and Laura.



TRUNK OR TREAT AT WEST GROVE UMC



Bring the whole family out for a safe, fun-filled evening of candy, costumes, and decorated trunks!



Friday, October 24th / 6:00—7:00 pm.
300 N. Guernsey Rd.
West Grove, Pa.

★ What to Expect:

- Candy and treats from creatively decorated car trunks
- Games & activities for kids of all ages
- Friendly, safe environment for families
- Costumes welcome (but not required!)



🚗 Want to join the fun by decorating your trunk?

Sign up at the church lobby or email
childyouthdirector@westgroveumc.org

Come celebrate fall with us —
and don't forget your treat bag!



Church Hike

Saturday October 11th 2025
at 11 AM

RIDLEY CREEK STATE PARK

Parking Area 17, Ridley Creek State
Park Rd, Edgmont Township PA 19063

Come out for an hour long walk with Pastor
DJ and your church friends. Bring a packed
lunch and a chair as we will enjoy lunch in
the park when the hike is done.

QUESTIONS CONTACT ANDREW HERMAN

📞 610-470-9378

🌐 hermanandrew@yahoo.com



FALL FUN AT THE FARM

Join your WGUMC Friends
for an afternoon at the Farm

Saturday October 18th
at 2:30 PM

Lytle's Farm
170 Church Road
Lincoln University PA
19352

Free Hayrides
Pumpkins for sale by the Pound
Corn Maze \$7.50 per person
(3 and under free)

Sign Up in the Church Narthex
or Contact Andrew Herman at
HermanAndrew@yahoo.com

Volunteer Opportunity

A Spanish-speaking woman who attends our food pantry is looking for an English tutor. She takes a weekly class at the West Grove Library but would like to add another day to her lessons.

She is very flexible with the day and time for the lesson. Her goal is to get her citizenship. Being bilingual is not necessary. If you have any interest, please contact Joan Leaman and she will get you set-up and provide materials to help with the instruction.

The instruction can take place at our church.





FAITH & WELLNESS:

Expanding Access. Embracing Hope.

Pastors • Imams • Rabbis • Lay Leaders • Ministry Staff

Learn how to help when someone in your congregation is:

- Facing hardships with housing, daily meals, or financial stability
- Experiencing a mental health crisis
- Struggling with alcohol or drug use

This gathering will provide **practical tools and resources** to help you connect your congregants with life-changing supports from county agencies and local organizations.

What to expect:

- ✓ **Presentations** from county departments
- ✓ **Real-life scenarios** to practice applying what you've learned
- ✓ **Personal testimony** from someone with lived experience navigating these challenges
- ✓ **Resource tables** highlighting local services and supports

October 7th, 2025

8:30am - Registration & Breakfast

9:00am-12:00pm



Christian Life Center

125 Saginaw Road
New London Twp., PA 19352

Register now using
the QR Code!



Questions? Contact
Chelsea at
ckunkel@chesco.org

Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 2 nd -	Pastor DJ's Bible Study (Ephsians)
October 3 rd -	Rummage Sale doors open to the public
October 4 th -	Rummage Sale doors open to the public
October 5 th -	Victory Sports Ministry // New Member Class
October 6 th -	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
October 7 th -	Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
October 8 th -	Prayer Team Meeting
October 9 th -	Pastor DJ's Bible Study on Ephesians
October 10 th -	RAP (Retired Active People)
October 12 th -	Confirmation Class
October 13 th -	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
October 14 th -	Yoga Class // Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
October 16 th -	Pastor DJ's Bible Study
October 19 th -	Victory Sports Ministry
October 20 th -	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
October 21 st -	Yoga Class // Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
October 23 rd -	Pastor DJ's Bible
October 25 th -	United Methodist Men's Breakfast
October 27 th -	Pastor Jim's Bible Study
October 28 th -	Yoga Class // Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
October 30 th -	Pastor DJ's Bible Study



When? On October 9th, TBS (Thursday Bible Study) at 6:30 pm. will begin an 8-week study on the Book of Ephesians, Part I. Part II will follow on January 15 and continue for 9 weeks. The study will be offered both on Zoom and in person.

What? In the Book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul addresses God's purpose in establishing the Church and describes the organic nature of the Church centered on Christ. He explains how we, the Church, has been transformed from death to life, and how believers are called to live out the Christian life.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact DJ Choi at pastor@westgroveumc.org

RUMMAGE SALE

WGUMC's Fall Rummage Sale.

Friday, October 3rd Doors open from 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm.

Saturday, October 4th, Doors open from 9:00 am. till Noon.

Ways to help are numerous. First, there could be no sale without donations. If you have gently used home goods, clothing, patio/gardening items or small pieces of furniture you no longer need, consider donating them to the Sale. Bring them to the church during office hours : 9:00 to 3:00 pm., Monday through Thursday.

Third is contributing to the Bake Table, our newest addition to the sale. Coffee and bake sale items are offered for sale on Friday and Saturday. Bring those items in by Thursday so we have time to price them for Friday. Anyone interested in hosting this part of the sale? Contact Fran Miller.

We usually have a rush of shoppers Friday morning, so if you could come during that time to assist the folks at the check-out tables or answering questions for the shoppers, it would be greatly appreciated.

On Saturday, we need help collecting leftovers and boxing them to be removed. Leftover items are donated to various places, it helps to have some stronger people, maybe with trucks, to make quick work of emptying the sanctuary, putting tables back and setting up the chairs for Worship on Sunday.

This fundraiser allows the UWF to contribute to many missions near and far. So the final way you can contribute is to come and shop! Encourage your friends and neighbors to shop! There are treasures for everyone. Come one, come all to the Rummage Sale this fall.

CMO UPDATE



Wow, it is so hard to believe that we are finishing up our first month of school here at Preschool! Time really does fly when you are having fun!

And fun we have been having, that's for sure.

The children all adjusted well to being back at school and in a routine. We love seeing all of the smiling faces arriving each day! Seeing the joy of the children exploring their new environments, playing with new toys and friends, and forming bonds with their teachers is just amazing to witness. We are a lucky bunch to get to work with such wonderful families!

Our kiddos have been learning how to sit and participate during circle time, how to interact with new peers, and most importantly, how to share and be kind to new friends.

All while being away from their families, for the first time ever for some of them! It is amazing to see the happiness and determination when they learn a new skill or find a new friend to play with.

Happy Fall, Abbie



ATTENTION ALL LADIES!

DID YOU KNOW that Yoga

is an excellent way to improve flexibility, strength, mindfulness, and overall health?

WGUMC United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) has established a weekly yoga routine which ensures that you can experience these benefits.

Starting Tuesday, October 7th, 1:30 to 2:00pm, and every Tuesday UWF is offering chair yoga, with Julissa Sanchez, our yoga instructor.



Stop in, bring a bottle of water and wear comfortable clothes.

Bring a friend and be ready to grab a chair!

See you in the sanctuary!

Feel free to call Shirley Daddario, President of UWF, if you have any questions, 484-268-0497 or email at shirleydad@verizon.net.

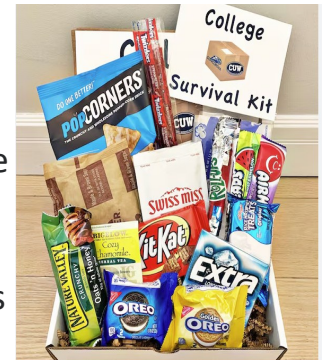
Your minimum donation of \$5.00 is appreciated and enables us to continue UWF's mission in providing this valuable service to you and to our community.

CARE PACKAGES for COLLEGE STUDENTS

2025-2026

On the week of **October 12th** look for *Sign up Genius* on the church website to sign up to donate college student's favorite snack food from WGUMC. There is still time to send in your family member's information, extended member as well, who would like a snack box.

- Send an email, to Priscilla Barkman at Chrishell5@verizon.net with address and favorite snack food that fit nicely in a shoe box.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

We are so excited to welcome you into the life of West Grove United Methodist Church! As part of joining our church family, we invite you to attend our New Member's Class.

This class is a wonderful opportunity to:

- ☐ Learn more about the mission and vision of our church
- ☐ Explore what it means to be a member of West Grove United Methodist Church
 - ☐ Meet other new members and build connections
 - ☐ Ask questions and discover ways to get involved in ministry

☐ **Date/Time: October 5th, 10:45AM**

☐ **Location: Conference Room by the Church office**

Whether you are new to faith, coming from another congregation, or seeking a deeper sense of belonging, this class is designed to help you feel at home and equipped for your journey here.

Please RSVP by October 5th so we can prepare materials and refreshments.

We look forward to spending this time with you!

With joy in Christ,

Rev. DJ Choi



Food Pantry

West Grove UMC Food Pantry

Weekly Hours:

Wednesday: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

Food Pantry Update

This past month, two new volunteers have come forward to help with our pantry set-up and distributions. We now have about 35 volunteers assisting with a variety of tasks in order to faithfully distribute food to people, living in our community, facing food insecurity. The produce from our church garden has been a tremendous addition to the vegetables that we receive from the Chester County Food Bank. As the growing season winds down, we look forward to next year and consider what produce seems to be of greatest demand. Just a reminder to check the expiration dates on any items you donate to our pantry. Thank you for your continued support.

October's Food Pantry Item of the Month /Boxed Crackes

In October, we will be collecting boxes of crackers. Any variety is appreciated. Boxes of crackers may be placed on the table in the food pantry room or in the designated bin in the church lobby.

Join us for our RFP Luncheon

West Grove UMC

300 North Guernsey Road West Grove PA

Friday October 10th 2025

at NOON

SINGER, SONG WRITER

MEL LEAMAN

will perform crooner songs from 1940's - early 1970's

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

BEVERAGES AND DESSERTS WILL BE PROVIDED

AN AFTERNOON OF FUN, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

RSVP: sar57ver@verizon.net

RSVP: sandytrul@yahoo.com



BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

Jonathan LeStourgeon	04
Grace Bowes	08
Jake Schneider	08
Bob Hocking	11
Valerie Kapp-Benner	16
Pam Carmichael	17
Lois Hocking	18
Susan Paisley	18
Christian Schneider	18



Amy Aucott	19
Janice Bowers	20
Simonds, Amy	21
Kyle Aucott	23
Jill Croft	23
Jill Hocking	24
Fernando Tena	26
Jonathan Tena	26

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.

This month's breakfast is October 25th

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>





**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!

~ Encounter ~ Empower ~ Engage ~

At West Grove UMC, we love God by encouraging Our community to be followers of Christ.

**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

Janice L. Bowers—Financial Administrator

Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Director
Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Bill Pardoe—IT Director
billpardoe1@gmail.com

Lavenia Civitella—Handbell Choir Director

Misslavenia@verizon.net

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

Maira Tena—Sexton
sexton@westgroveumc.org

**Sunday Worship Service
9:27 am.**

Christ Servant Ministers

Peter Mullen, psmullen@petermullen.com

Board and Committee Leadership

Val Kapp-Benner - Interim Administrative Council Chair and

Janice L. Bowers Financial Administrator

Kim O'Neill - Trustee Chair

Vicki Owens - Treasurer

Dan Elliott - SPRC Chair

Open - Missions Chair

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair

Open - Delegate to Annual Conference

Open - Committee on Lay Leadership

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