



**The Wesleyan
Star
May 2026**

**West Grove
United Methodist Church
Pastor DJ Choi**

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

**Are you truly living your life well right now?
What does it honestly mean to lead a "well-lived life"?
Is it about grasping the success and wealth the world speaks of, or is it about living a morally blameless life that earns the respect of others?**

We each do our best to endure and live through today. Yet, there are times when we crumble in the face of a reality that doesn't go as planned, feeling disappointed in ourselves and those around us.

**Furthermore, we are people who bear the name "Christian".
What, then, does a "life of faith" truly look like for us?
We must not hesitate before this question; we must answer it with sincerity. Our lives are not a mere accident that happened by chance, and we cannot simply let this precious, once-in-a-lifetime existence slip away.**

**Our lives are etched into the memories of our family, friends, and children, leaving a trace that can either benefit or harm the world.
Therefore, I now invite you to face these heavy questions of life and wrestle with them through meditation.**

I wish to sincerely contemplate with you how we can truly live well—both in the eyes of God and in our own.

**Sincerely,
Pastor DongJin Choi**

What It Means to Live Well

May 3 - What It Means to Live Well Ecclesiastes 3:1-3

May 10 - How to Live Well in Later Life Proverbs 16:31

May 17 - How to Live Well in Married Life Genesis 2:24

May 24 - How to Live Well as Parents (Confirmation Sunday) Ephesians 6:4

May 31 - How to Live a Healthy Life 3 John 1:2

June 7 - How to Live without Impatience 1 Corinthians 12:26

June 14 - How to Live with Well with Others Titus 3:2

The One Board Model for West Grove UMC: A New Administrative Structure

For a long time, the United Methodist Church has effectively governed itself through four administrative committees. However, as the church faces a period of decline and society changes rapidly, it has become difficult to conduct church administration and ministry effectively and efficiently under the traditional structure.

Our church is no exception. Over the past few years, it has become increasingly difficult to find people to serve on general committees, let alone in leadership. The common response is that there are too many meetings and people do not want to commit for long periods. We must acknowledge that part of the issue lies in our current membership numbers. Furthermore, the current structure makes quick decision-making difficult; sometimes, it takes two to three months just to fix a single issue. Consequently, many UMC churches are transitioning to a Single Board Model.

What is the One Board Model? The existing administrative structure consists of four committees: Trustees, Finance, Staff-Parish Relations (SPRC), and the Church Council. Each committee typically requires 9 members serving 3 to 6-year rotations. Filling just these four committees requires over 30 people, with 9 new members needing to be nominated every year. In reality, finding enough people is extremely difficult, leading to the same individuals serving repeatedly. This result is neither healthy nor spiritual.

To address this, many churches are adopting the Leadership Board (One Board Model). This model consolidates all the responsibilities and authorities of the previous four committees into one. It frees congregants from endless meetings. While the four areas still have designated chairs to prevent power from being concentrated in a single person, the administrative work is handled by one unified committee.

This alternative structure is based on ¶247.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

“The charge conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶243 are observed.”

Our Process and the Next Steps Our church leaders have undergone two periods of discernment. We met with Annual Conference officials via Zoom to hear explanations and ask questions regarding the One Board Model.

Since transitioning to this model is a significant matter, we will hold a Congregational Meeting on May 17th after the worship service. This will be a time to explain the model and engage in a Q&A session. Following this, we will proceed with the nomination process in June and July, with a final decision to be made through a Special Charge Conference.

Please keep in mind that this is a work in progress. The most important thing is why we are making this choice: it is for more spiritual, efficient, and healthy ministry and mission. No final decisions have been made yet, and the open participation of every member is essential.

Sincerely

Pastor DongJin Choi

COMMUNITY GARDEN

WISH LIST

- *T-posts (approximately 16-20)
- *Fence wire
- *Top soil
- *Digging pitchfork
- *Trowel
- *Garden rake-Hoe

Spring is on the way and with it the wonder of nature unfolds.

You are invited to join in our community garden. No commitment to heavy lifting or long hours required.

Even if you only have time to volunteer a half hour a month your help would be very much appreciated. Contact Judy Gambill at 610-389-7242 or jlj456@epix.net



Project C.U.R.E.

Volunteers Needed



projectc.u.r.e.

Monday, May 11th

1:00 - 4:00 pm.

Come 1 hour or stay all day, you decide.

Contact Paulette Bryan

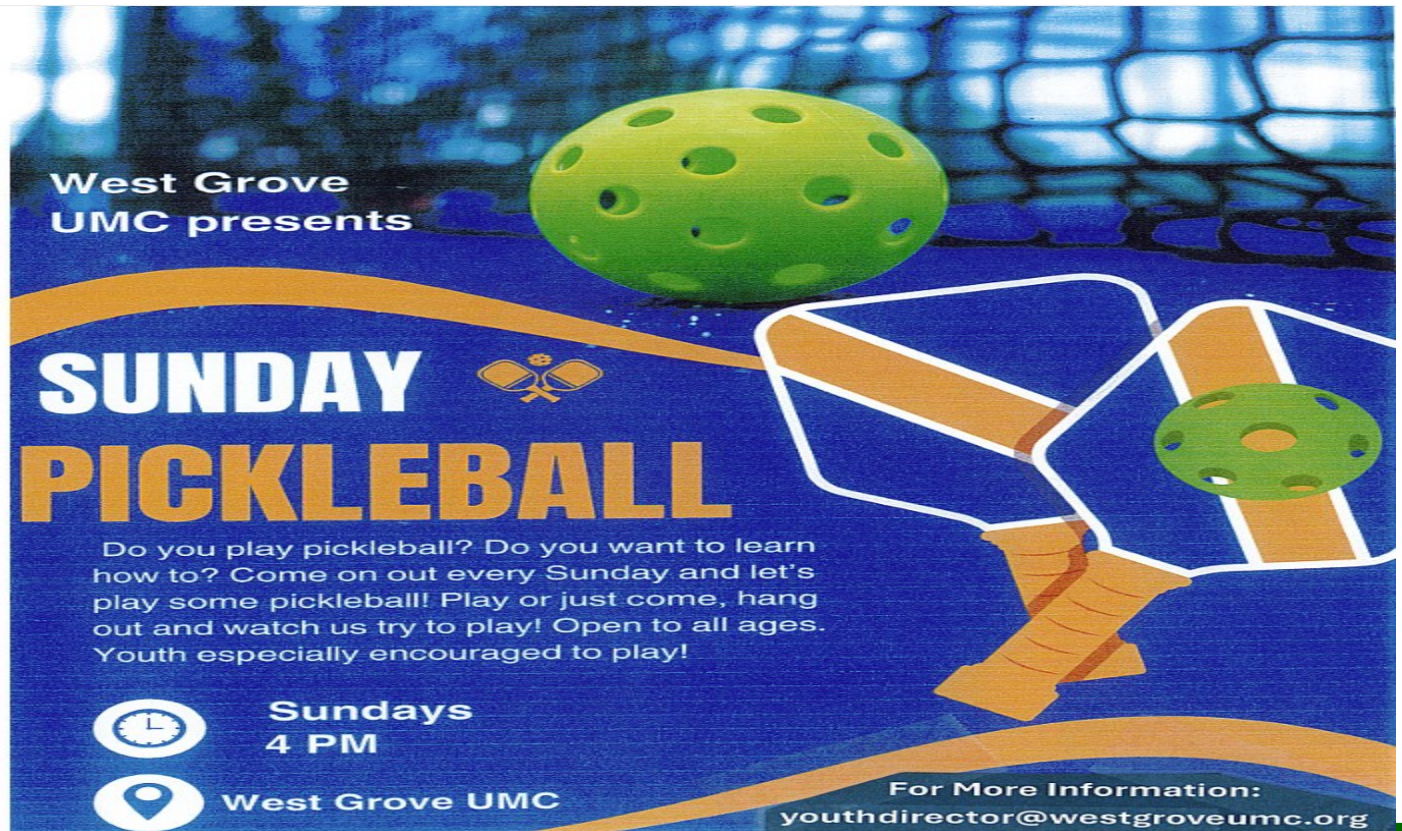
For details at

gigibryan16@gmail.com

Sign Up Sheet on the boards in the narthex

YOUTH MINISTRY


Youth Director at: youthdirector@westgroveumc.org with questions or for more information.




West Grove UMC presents

SUNDAY PICKLEBALL

Do you play pickleball? Do you want to learn how to? Come on out every Sunday and let's play some pickleball! Play or just come, hang out and watch us try to play! Open to all ages. Youth especially encouraged to play!

 **Sundays**
4 PM

 **West Grove UMC**

For More Information:
youthdirector@westgroveumc.org

ICE CREAM SOCIAL



MAY 29th
6:00 – 7:30 pm.



Come enjoy an ice cream cone
And donate to help "OLIVIA"
a CMO preschooler whose
family needs our support during
a very trying time.

DONATE THE TOPPING, OR CONES OF YOUR CHOICE!

***SUGAR OR CAKE CONES.** *Hot fudge, whipped cream, chocolate morsels, crushed OREO® cookies, chopped Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and almonds, sprinkles, M&M's or your favorite topping!!!



Our verse for the month of May on Giving is found in Mark, Chapter 12 verse 41-44

**41- And Jesus sat over against the treasury, And beheld how the people cast money into the treasury:
And many that were rich cast in much. 42- And there came a certain poor widow,
And she threw in two mites, which are worth a farthing. 43- And He called unto His disciples, and saith unto
them Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in,
Than all they which hath cast into the treasury: 44- For all they did cast in of their abundance;
But she of her want did cast in all that she had, Even of her living.**

So far in our monthly verses we have looked at what Proverbs, James and the apostle Paul have said about giving. This month we will reflect on what Jesus himself had to say. The scene depicted in this passage of scripture is a familiar one. Jesus is sitting just outside the temple near the collection box. He watches intently as people deposit their money in the box. Jesus notes that many of them are relatively wealthy. They don't hold back and they give a lot of money. As He is watching, a poor widow walks up to the collection box and throws in two mites, which according to my notes are worth no more than half a penny. Jesus makes this a teaching moment for His disciples. He calls them over and points to the widow and tells them that she has given more than all of the other people combined. How can this be? Obviously, the half penny that the widow threw in can't be worth more than all the gold and silver thrown in by those who had just preceded her. Jesus goes on to explain that these people all gave out of there abundance whereas the poor widow gave out of her poverty, in fact it was all that she had.

In making this comparison between the people who were able to give and did because they had money to spare and the poor widow who didn't have any money to spare but also gave, is Jesus saying that for our offerings to count with God we must give sacrificially? This reminds me of the rich young ruler, who, when he asked Jesus what must he do to have eternal life, was told to sell all that he possessed and give it to the poor. These passages have always been somewhat troubling, at least to me. Where does God draw the line between "giving out of our abundance and giving up all that we possess"? Did the poor widow give her all because she trusted God for her every need? Just this past week Caryl and I had to buy a new refrigerator. If I had that kind of faith and had put the money we just spent for a new refrigerator this week into the collection plate last week, would God have made sure the old refrigerator didn't need to be replaced? I don't think so, but who knows? God can and does work in strange and mysterious ways. These passages seem to raise more questions than answers.

So what is Jesus telling us? It is interesting that Jesus doesn't condemn the wealthy, for their giving was substantial. By comparing their giving to that of the poor widow, I think Jesus is saying that giving is a choice. It's important and how and why we give matters to God, because how and why we give is a direct reflection of what's in our hearts: our faith, our priorities, our relationships to our possessions, to each other, and ultimately our relationship to God. Certainly, the poor widow's heart was in the right place.

Looking ahead, the Bible verse for June we will be going back to Paul, this time in in his first letter to the Corinthians he tells them to give as a matter of routine.



RAP Luncheon Invitation



Let's Celebrate! West Grove's RAP Last Luncheon of the Season On
Friday, May 8th, at noon

Hey friends! We're wrapping up the season with one last, big potluck luncheon at West Grove United Methodist Church, 300 N Guernsey Rd, West Grove, PA—and everyone's invited! Round up your buddies, and bring your favorite covered dish to share. We'll have plenty of drinks and desserts on hand. The amazing West Grove Memory Bell Choir will be ringing in the fun for our program, so you definitely want to be here! Ready to join the party? Give Sara Ann a shout at sar57ver@verizon.net to let us know you're coming. Come for the food, stay for the music, and leave with a smile. See you there!

The RAP Committee: Sara Ann Ramberger, Caryl Stuhrke, Paulette Bryan, Joyce Lewis, Sandy Pardoe, and Cindy Weyant



Children's Morning Out —(CMO) - News

Happy Spring from Our Preschool Family!

A big thank-you to all the families who joined us for our School Art Show Fundraiser! It was a wonderful evening filled with color, creativity, and celebration. The children were so proud to see their artwork displayed, and it was clear how much love and effort went into every piece. We're thrilled to share that the event was very well attended and truly a fun time for everyone who came out to support our school.

This month, we also had an exciting Community Helper Week! Our students loved learning about the important roles people play in keeping our neighborhoods safe and running smoothly. We were especially lucky to have visits from local firefighters and police officers. The children enjoyed seeing the equipment up close, and asked lots of questions. These experiences help build understanding and appreciation for the helpers in our community.

We are winding down in our school year and are looking forward to a very busy May!

All the best, Abbie



Weekly Hours:

Wednesday: 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Thursdays: 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

During our distributions the week before Easter, we set-up Easter themed games and activities for the children whose parents come shopping at our pantry. We also had plastics eggs filled with candy for the children. Both kids and volunteers had a fun time!

The Chester County Food Bank continues to supply over 95% of the food that we distribute to our friends in the community who struggle to feed themselves and their families. We are extremely grateful for the quality and quantity of food they provide us with on a weekly basis. There are usually 8-10 produce choices, eggs, cheese or yogurt and 3-4 meat options. Additionally, we receive dry goods from them ranging from canned goods, rice, oil, flour and tortillas, to name just a sampling.

Our church family and community members help supply items we don't usually get from the Food Bank such as condiments, diapers and household items.

Since Mother's Day is coming up, we are asking for donations of baby wipes as our May item of the month. Thanks for dropping them off outside in the blue cart, or in the lobby in the back bin.



United Women in Faith Women's Tea

Date: Saturday, May 16th 3:00 to 4:30pm.

Where: West Grove United Methodist Church

Who: All Women

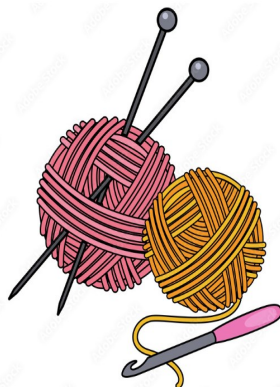
RSVP: Sign-up in the narthex

Join us for a delightful afternoon at our annual Women's Tea! This special event is a wonderful opportunity for fun, fellowship, and celebration. We invite you to bring a special friend in your life—whether it's your mother, daughter, sister, or a cherished friend—as we honor and uplift the women who mean so much to us. Enjoy tea, treats, and meaningful conversations.

Let's celebrate together!



Hooks, Needles, and Knots, Oh My!



No Experience Needed to join Hooks, Needles, and Knots, Oh My! We open our doors to everyone regardless of your skill level. You don't need to know how to knit or crochet to participate.

Experienced members are happy to guide newcomers, sharing patterns, tips, yarn, supplies and encouragement.

We are working on items for church projects, charities, and loved ones. Come for the conversation and camaraderie, and discover a new passion!

Contact person is, Shirley Daddario at shirleydad@verizon.net



The Easter season was so beautifully displayed here at WGUMC.

AND our heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who so generously gave their time and energy into making the season so beautiful.

*** * * COMING IN MAY * * ***

Upcoming Dates to Remember For May

<u>May 3rd</u>	WGUMC Brunch Potluck	<u>May 5th</u>	Yoga Class/Tuesday Bible Study
<u>May 6th</u>	Divorce Care Meeting	<u>May 8th</u>	RAP
<u>May 10th</u>	Mother's Day	<u>May 12th</u>	Yoga Class / Tuesday Bible Study
<u>May 15th</u>	Hooks, Needles & Knots, Oh My	<u>May 16th</u>	United Women in Faith Tea
<u>May 17th</u>	Congregational Meeting / Crafts and Chat Circle		
<u>May 19th</u>	Yoga Class / Praying the Psalms Bible Study		
<u>May 23rd</u>	United Methodist Men's Breakfast		
<u>May 24th</u>	Confirmation Sunday		
<u>May 25th</u>	Memorial Day		
<u>May 26th</u>	Yoga Class / Tuesday Bible Study		
<u>May 29th</u>	Ice Cream Social (Fund Raiser for CMO child "Olivia")		

*** * * Talent and Dessert Night scheduled for May 17th * * ***
has been postponed.
Watch for further details on rescheduling.



Craft and Chat Circle Gathering



Hey crafty friends! Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 17th at 1:30 PM—we're meeting in the narthex for a creative afternoon. Laura Minnick will show us how to make a cool Americana flag, and everything you'll need is included for just \$7.50. Bring your imagination and get ready to have some fun with a bunch of awesome, crafty ladies!

Going to join us? Shoot an email to Sandy Pardoe at sandytrul@yahoo.com or text her at 414-520-5217. We can't wait to hang out and get crafty with you!



Staying Healthy with Chair Yoga

Sessions at WGUMC are every Tuesday, at 1:30pm sharp to 2:15pm. in the sanctuary with Julissa Sanchez, who is our certified yoga instructor who also instructs at the YMCA in Jennersville.

Wear comfortable clothes, bring your water. A minimum \$5 donation is appreciated. No person will be turned away if a donation is a hardship. Together, let's take steps toward healthier living, one gentle stretch at a time!

Bring a friend!



**RUMMAGE
SALE**

RUMMAGE SALE RESULTS TO BE ANNOUNCED IN JUNE NEWSLETTER

The Spring Rummage Sale story will be in the June newsletter! We are excited to share how your generosity and involvement made a meaningful difference.

Thank you to everyone for your enthusiastic support and your amazing dedication.

Shirley Daddario

United Women in Faith, Pres.

DIVORCE CARE

MEETS 1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 6:30-7:30PM IN CHURCH LIBRARY

LIVING FORWARD

DivorceCare is a monthly support group for the divorced or separated. Let us help guide you to healing!!

Next Meeting:

WEDNESDAY, May 6th

CONTACT:

MARYALICE MILLER AT
maryalicekmiller@gmail.com

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

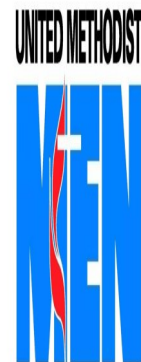
Fourth Saturday of each Month, 8:00 -9:30 am.

Next meeting is May 23rd

There is no breakfast in the month of December.

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)



BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

05/01 Jay Miller
05/05 Jeremy Hampton
05/06 Sandy Deckard
05/11 Dr. Bob Hayes
05/12 Dan Elliott
05/14 Emmett Owens
05/15 Olivia Eason
05/15 Margaret Rubincan
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



West Grove United Methodist Church

~ Encounter ~ Empower ~ Engage ~

MAY 2026



**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.-2:30 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

Mark Rome - Youth Director
youthdirector@westgroveumc.org

April Spencer - Church Administrator
Office@westgroveumc.org

Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director
Contemporary Music Director
Keyboardist
Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Bill Pardoe—IT Director
billpardoe1@gmail.com

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

Mike DuVall, mwduvall@aol.com
Dan Elliot, Financialadmin@westgroveumc.org

Board and Committee Leadership

Dick Stuhrke - Chair Vision Team (Ad. Council)
Dan Elliott Financial Administrator, Chair of the Finance Committee.
Priscilla Barkman - Trustee Chair
Vicki Owens - Treasurer
Cindy Hoover - SPRC Chair
DJ Choir - Missions Chair
Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair
Open -Delegate to Annual Conference
Pastor DJ Choi - Chair of Lay Leadership Committee
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