



**Come as you are
all are welcome!**

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Worship Service
Followed by Fellowship Time

9:15 a.m.

Adult Sunday school

10:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service/
Children's SS

Staff:

PASTOR: Rev. Adam Dotts

LAY LEADER: Eric Stuver

ADMIN. ASST: Jennifer Robertson

PRAISE BAND DIR: Denise Baldwin

NURSERY DIR: Destiny Wallace

CUSTODIAN: Richard Robertson

CCW: Natalie Marionneaux

Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Fri. 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

501 Grove Avenue,
Johnstown, PA 15902

Phone: (814) 539-8684

Email: www.groveaveumc.com

Website: groveaveumc@verizon.net

From the Pastor

John 1-5 NRSV

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Greetings in the name of Jesus:

February is often a month that goes by in a rush. However, for me it was a month of anticipation, you see, it is a month that marks the birth of my first child. February is also a month that we are to give candy and flowers to that special someone. But for Grove Avenue, February will set us on an adventure to understand God's love of the world. The above scripture sets us on that path of understanding. Over the next few weeks let us worship together breaking bread and basking in the light that shines in the darkness. I challenge each of you to pick up your bibles and read the Gospel of John, be excited to experience the life of Jesus in a way that only John can describe. Each week as we worship together let us go deeper into our faith, as we strive ever closer to Christ's perfecting light.

May the peace of the Lord be with you.

Pastor Adam

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

WELCOME TO THE **FEBRUARY 2019** ISSUE OF *THE MESSENGER*

We welcome your submissions, your input, your ideas, your opinions, essays, poems, photos, and testimonies.

Please let us know if there is a layperson you would like to salute or a particular ministry or member you would like to highlight.

You may contact the church office with suggestions or concerns about content.

The newsletter is also available online at www.groveaveumc.com.

Please notify the church of:

- address and phone number changes
- births or deaths in your family
- hospital visits
- accomplishments,
- milestones, celebrations

ARTICLES FOR THE MARCH 2019 ISSUE ARE DUE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Articles may be dropped off or emailed to the church office.
Articles received after the deadline are not guaranteed to appear in *The Messenger*.

When you need prayer...



If at any time you have a prayer request, you may do one of the following:

- Call or Email the church office
- Send it through our website at www.groveaveumc.com
- Contact the prayer chain by calling:
John & Veronica James, 266-6907
- Fill out a prayer request card and either hand it into or mail it to the church office. Prayer request cards can be found in the pew racks in the sanctuary.

Don't forget to alert the church office if you or a family member is in the hospital. Let us know if you would like it announced during church services, in the bulletin or newsletters.

Did You Know...

- If you are unable to attend church you can give your weekly contributions through our website.
- When you make a purchase on Amazon you can support Grove Avenue United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact our church office.

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

February Birthdays

- 7 – Karen Hohman
- 10 – Lauren Sabo
- 10 – Sarah Robertson
- 12 – Dorothy Hughes**
- 16 – Linda Allshouse*
- 19 – Donna McLaughlin**
- 21 – Kelly Kauffman
- 23 – Ainsley Stewart
- 20 – Denise Baldwin
- 24 – Bill Brice**
- 25 – Andrea Kovaloski
- 27 – Kathy Gindlesperger

***Homebound**
****80 or over**

Please send these members a birthday card.

Linda Allshouse
Westmont Woods
787 Goucher St.
Johnstown, PA 15905

Bill Brice
116 Luna Ln.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Dorothy Hughes
In Texas until spring

Donna McLaughlin
202 Melvin St.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Happy Birthday



Serving Grove Avenue

February Scriptures

Ushers

- February**
Gail Hiner
Bill Hiner
David Aikey
Pat Aikey

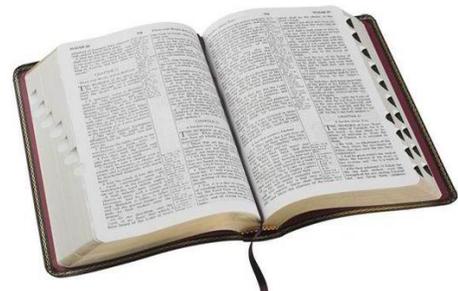


- Sunday, February 3**
Scripture: Book of John
- Sunday, February 10**
Scripture: Book of John
- Sunday, February 17**
Scripture: Book of John
- Sunday, February 24**
Scripture: Book of John

Scripture Readers

- Contemporary Service**
February
3 – Lois Graham
10 – David Graham
17 – Karen Hohman
24 – Tom Charette

- Traditional Service**
February
3 – Gail Hiner
10 – Georgia Yeager
17 – Bob Birchfield
24 – John James



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News Around the Pews

Member News

Welcome:

On **February 10th** we will welcome Natalie Marionneaux into our church family. Natalie came to us from New Orleans, LA as our Church and Community Worker. There will be a reception between services. Stop by and welcome her.

40 Days of Prayer

You are invited to join in daily prayer with sisters and brothers in Christ throughout Western Pennsylvania during the 40 days leading up to the February 23-26, 2019 Special Called Session of the General Conference. You are encouraged to use this prayer seeking God's help and guidance as the delegates from around the world meet to find a Way Forward for our denomination.

LORD, WE NEED YOU, OUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU, OUR WORLD NEEDS YOU.

We acknowledge that we often feel that we are right and others are wrong. Forgive us for treating those we disagree with poorly.

We ask that you would protect us from ourselves. Help us to see only you, help us to seek only you. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We lift General Conference 2019 before you and ask that your Spirit would lead the delegates. We pray that the way we respond would not harm anyone, but rather would point them to you. Help us to show the world your love through the ways we work with one another. Amen.

Thank You:

Dear friends and extended family at Grove Ave.,

As David and I clean out my dad's house, I am amazed at how quickly a person's life and possessions are disposed of. But, then, when I read my devotions, I remember that my dad's riches are in heaven; that he lived his life believing in the unseen and his faith in God was complete.

Daddy had an abiding love for Grove Ave., his Sunday school class, the church choir and for the men's group, and his friends in the congregation.

I am deeply touched by the donations that were presented to the church in memory of my father.

Thank you to:

Dave and Pat Aiky

Donna Bako

Bill and Gail Hiner

Georgia Kerrick

United Methodist Men

A very special thank you goes to Dr. Brice, who took donuts out to "Woods" on Thursday's. Daddy looked forward to those visits.

A special thank you to Gail Hiner who brought him M&M's. He always loved his goodies.

A Special thank you to Pastor Adam for visiting my father at the hospital and at "Woods". Your prayers and presence made a difference to my dad and to me!

All of Grove Ave. has shown me so much love and support. I have learned that there are many blessings that come wrapped in Sorrow!

With much love,
Karen Hohman

Mark Your Calendars

When Helping Hurts

The book, *When Helping Hurts* is a six-week study that offers a different framework for understanding poverty and its alleviation. Rather than simply defining it as a lack of material things, the book addresses the roots of the issue: broken relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.

UMHS's Carolyn Varchol will be facilitating this book study starting January 30. It will finish on Ash Wednesday, just in time for Lent and perhaps a personal Lenten challenge for participants to reach out to their community in ways they have not previously done so based on what is learned in the study.

When Helping Hurts Book Study
Grove Ave. UMC, 501 Grove Ave.
January 30 – March 6, 1-3pm
Books are \$12.

Please reach out if you have questions. Interested persons should register with Carolyn.



United Methodist Women

All are welcome to the UMW meeting on **Wednesday, February 6 at 1:00 pm**. Come learn the purpose of our mission and enjoy the fellowship. Snacks appreciated.

Looking Ahead:

Lenten Activities

Ignite the Valley Services:

Ash Wednesday – Westmont UMC at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 31st – Musical Presentation at Roxbury St. Paul's UMC at 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday – Park Ave. UMC at 7:00 pm

Good Friday – Grove Ave. UMC at 7:00 pm. Cross procession from Park Ave. UMC to Grove Ave. UMC starting at 6:00 pm.

Moxham Ministerium Lenten Luncheons:

Schedule will be announced at a later date

Check your Sunday bulletins and next months newsletter for more information on these activities.



HELP WANTED

Looking for eager, officially or unofficially Irish person to organize and oversee the GAUMC St. Patrick's Day Talent Show/Party. Duties include helping to select the day/time, work with the talent coordinator, coordinate set-up and kitchen activity. If interested, please contact the church office or Karen Allhouse. We always have good entertainment and a lot of fun at this mid-winter event. Hoping you would consider coordinating it for us so that it can continue.

Outreaching

Free Store

The Free Store continues to grow as we help to meet some of the needs of the people in our community. We've made many new friends, some who just stop in to say Hi on Thursday afternoons. Thanks to everyone who donated so many clothes – particularly the winter items. Many of our neighbors, children and adults, desperately needed the coats. What a warm feeling seeing the smiles and relief on their faces when they found a coat.

We've seen some new faces helping at the store, too. Several members of our congregation have been stopping by just to see the store in action and to sit and talk. We love having you join us but even better, our neighbors like meeting more people from Grove Ave.

Every week we purchase toiletries to distribute. Someone recently asked where do we get the money to buy everything and the answer is – through generous contributions from our congregation and friends of the church. When we started, we didn't realize the need for and expense of diapers. These are items that cannot be purchased with the SNAP card. Parents and grandparents are struggling to buy diapers for the little ones. We are feeling their financial struggle, too.

IDEA: If you'd like to help with "diaper duty" we've found the best prices at Aldi's and Walmart. When you're shopping, if you'd like to pick up one pack of diapers and bring them to church, we'll add them to our weekly stock. Our weekly shopping list always includes the following sizes: 2, 4, 5, 6 and pullup sizes 3T/4T and 4T/5T for both boys and girls. There will be a collection box in the first-floor hallway adjacent to the elevator.

Our neighbors send you a very heartfelt thank you and God Bless You for everything you do for them.

Hoss's Meals

When Sharon Robertson brought forth Hoss's Fundraising Dinner Kits, she didn't know how much of a success it would be. Once the NOW Committee got a hold of this idea, they ran with it and turned it into a mission project. This congregation really came through to help our neighbors while supporting Grove Ave. UMC's General Fund. We made a profit of \$235.00. As you can see in the below thank you from Natalie Marionneaux that we made an impact on the Moxham residents. We hope to do this next year and hopefully reach more people.



BIG THANK YOU to all who purchased Hoss meals for our neighbors for this Christmas season. 25 households have received meals impacting more than 90 people. Church without walls in Moxham! Thank you to everyone. Please consider stopping by on a Thursday afternoon at the Free Store to meet some of our neighbors.

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

The Church, Endowments and Taxes

Supporting the “Church” and “church” happens in many ways. When we see the Church with a big “C” it refers to the church as the universal, the collective – ALL Christians around the world worshipping and serving our Triune God. When we see the church with a small “c,” it means the local, the congregation, the members of that building. Maybe an easier analogy is thinking of the branch and the vines, the body and its parts. And in essence, one cannot exist with the other.

While Grove Ave. UMC is a church - a local congregation and a building, it is also part of the Church universal, part of the rock that Jesus has build the Church. Both kinds of church call us to be a community of believers, led in fellowship towards ecumenism... that is participation on a local level and a communal level that builds our faith in Christ and reaches out not only to each other but also out into the world as kingdom builders, if you will.

This kingdom building is done in many ways. Part of this Christian membership asks us to contribute not only with our presence in worship and commitment to prayer but also financially. What does it mean when we reach into our pockets to contribute to the Church and the church?

For starters, it keeps the lights on at 501 Grove Ave. It puts a pastor in the pulpit. And it brings a missionary to Johnstown. As part of the body of Christ, we sustain and grow not only 501 Grove Ave. and Moxham but the Church around the world.

Money?!@#& Got to have it. Got to pay the light bill. Need a pastor. Ministries require money. Christ calls us in all aspects of life... as local and global kingdom builders. While giving certainly benefits the receiver, there is grace for the giver. When we realize we are part of the body of the Church, what we do makes a difference. It makes a difference to Grove Ave. UMC, the church (members and building), the community (Moxham and Johnstown), and globally (the world).

Our giving impacts the greater good in the world. We become stewards of the kingdom, keepers of the Word made flesh, in our faith to hold up the Body of believers.

Have you ever thought of contributing financially to an endowment? An endowment keeps on giving. The base/principle remains in tact while the interest funds programs and continues to fund programs in the future. For the giver, it may also provide a tax benefit. Therefore, the benefits of charitable giving can extend beyond the financial wellbeing of the church.

In order to educate the congregation on how each of us can benefit from funding endowments, the endowment committee periodically would like to provide you with some insight on how giving can actually reduce your taxes. The information provided by Barnes Saly & Company shows how giving may benefit those of us with IRA's by providing a tax saving opportunity:

There is a unique method for taxpayers that are 70.5+ to avoid paying income tax on required minimum distribution (RMD) by making a charitable contribution. They can directly transfer up to \$100,000 /year from an IRA to a qualified charity. If you are 70.5+ and make an IRA-to-charity transfer, there is no itemized deduction for a charitable contribution and there are no required taxes on the distribution. Because the IRA distribution to a charity is not taxable, it does not impact your adjusted gross income (AGI) and you may benefit from other tax provisions that are effected by AGI (such as Social Security income that is taxable and the cost of Medicare B insurance premiums costs).

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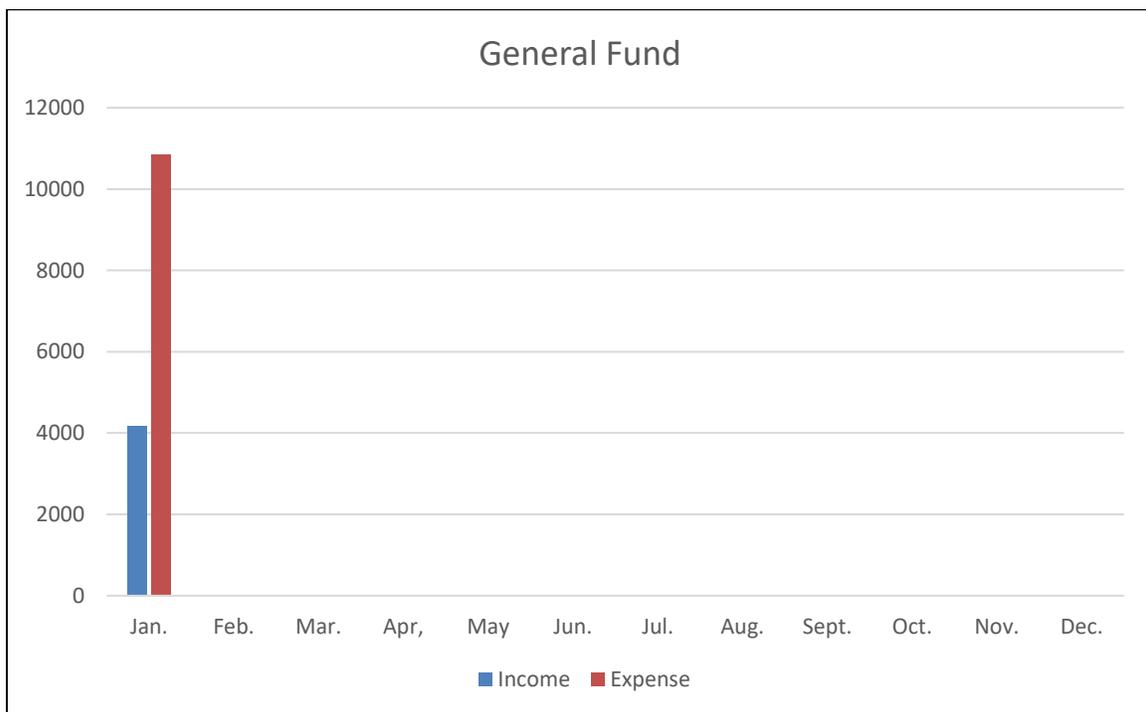
Clear? Clear as mud? If you would like to discuss how contributing to an endowment from an IRA may provide some tax relief, please call John J. Saracena at (814) 288-1544 of Barnes Saly and Company, 637 Ferndale Ave., Ste. 100, Johnstown, PA 15905.

Grove Ave. UMC Endowment Committee Members:

Bob Hagerich, Chair	Vivian Young
Pat Aikey	Eileen Stuver
Heather Brice	Eleanor Pountney
Adam Dotts	Georgia Kerrick
Tom Sabo	Sue Birchfield
Brenda Mills	

Feel free to chat with any member to understand the endowments at the church better.

Finance Report



The above chart shows the income and expenses as of January 22, 2019. The weather has had a big impact on the weekly contributions. Due to that reason starting February 3rd, we hope to help boost the General Fund by having 50 envelopes marked \$1.00-\$50.00 set up in the back. Take the envelope with the amount you are able to give and please consider making this donation in addition to your weekly contributions.

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