



**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

Youth Leader: Ryan Thomas

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:

groveaveumc501@gmail.com

Website: www.groveaveumc.com

From the Pastor

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:1

Greetings in the name of Jesus:

I was inspired last week by Pastor Deb's children's message. Her message suggested that God provided both light and water to sustain life and we must remember that all things come from God. Our ministry in April is that of Easter and the hope of resurrection. However, to have resurrection and new birth there must be death. The scripture of John 14 is often read during a United Methodist funeral service. We are reminded that death is not the be all end all that we fear. We are to live each day walking Jesus' path with the knowledge that our time will pass, and we will be reunited with Christ. Live each day to the fullest, holding nothing back from a world seeking to be resurrected.

Blessings
Pastor Adam



WELCOME TO THE **APRIL 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 MAY 2019 ISSUE ARE DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 19

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.

April Birthdays

3 – Sharon Robertson
18 – Journey Escontrias
21 – John Hollis
22 – Ruth Smith**
23 – Joe Scaletta
26 – Darnell McLaughlin

**Homebound
**80 or over*

Ruth Smith
185 Paul St.
Johnstown, PA 15905

April Anniversaries

7 – Pastor Adam and Amy Dotts
19 – Rich and Sharon Robertson



Serving Grove Avenue

Ushers

April

Brenda Mills
Kim Fox
Bill Zolbe
Jack McLaughlin



April Scriptures

Sunday, April 7

Scripture: John 11

Sunday, April 14

Scripture: John 14

Sunday, April 21

Scripture: John 20

Sunday, April 28

Scripture: Book of John

Scripture Readers

Contemporary Service

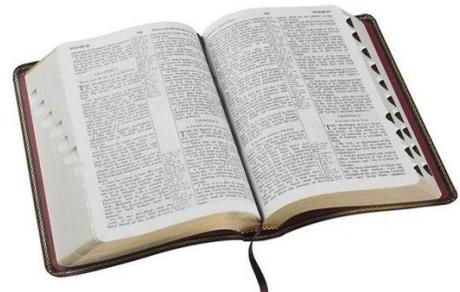
April

7 – Lois Graham
14 – David Graham
21 – Karen Hohman
28 – Blended

Traditional Service

April

7 – Blended
14 – Heather Brice
21 – Deb Groeger
28 – Karen Allshouse



Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

News Around the Pews

Two Blended Services

On **April 7th at 10:00 am** join us for a special blended service. There is a lot planned for this Service. Baptisms, recognition of scholarship recipients, and the children doing a skit. Within the next few weeks, Donna Bako and Ryan Thomas, our new Youth Leader, will be hard at work preparing the children. Please join us to show Donna, Ryan and the children all your support.

On **April 28th** we will have our service at **10:00 am**. This service will be mainly a Traditional Service due to the band being of that Sunday.

Congratulations

Benjamin CL Mayer has passed his licensing exams and is now a Professional Landscape Architect in the state of Maryland.

New Address

Beth Aikey
Richland Towers
343 Theatre Dr., Apt. 214
Johnstown, PA 15904

Visitation

Pastor Adam asks that if you would like a visit from either him or a laity, please contact the church office so your request doesn't get overlooked.

Thank You

I wish to thank the congregation for all the lovely birthday and get-well cards. We both want to thank Donna Bako, Georgia Tiffany, the youth and children for the card ministry. We were very pleased to receive a Valentine and a St. Patrick's Day card.

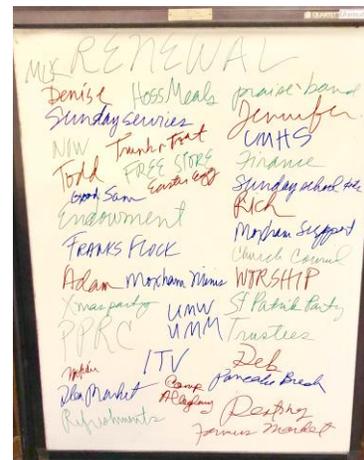
Ruth Anne and John Hollis

Meet Our Youth Leader

Hola! I am Ryan Thomas. Currently, I am a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown studying Biology and Spanish. For the past five years I have been involved in ministries such as Habitat for Humanity, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Camp Allegheny, and Protestant Campus Ministries at Pitt-Johnstown. I am excited to embark on a new chapter of ministry at Grove Avenue! I am thrilled that God has led me to be engaged in a ministry where I can lead others just as those before me have led me in Christ. Thank you for having me!

Celebrating Grove Ave. UMC

At a recent Council meeting, Natalie Marionneaux wanted us to say everything that Grove Ave. has been doing. As you can see by the picture below, the board was filled. The NOW Committee is extending that even further and would like to invite everyone, during Lent, to write down their good memories and events of their church family experiences here at Grove. Share all that you can. Think of this as a renewal and reconnection to God and your Grove Ave. UMC family.



Mark Your Calendars

United Methodist Women

All are welcome to the UMW meeting on **Wednesday, April 3 at 1:00 pm**. Come learn the purpose of our mission and enjoy the fellowship. Snacks appreciated

Community Easter Egg Hunt

The NOW Committee is planning a community Easter Egg Hunt for **April 13th at 11:00 am**. Donations of candy, plastic eggs and small items can be placed the box at the back of the church. You may also make a monetary donation and the shopping will be done for you.

We also need volunteers to help with this project. If you would like to help, please contact Eileen Stuver or Donna Bako.



Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale, Too

April 27, 2018

7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12 years of age.

Volunteers will be needed to help with Pancake Day.

One way everyone can help is by selling tickets!

Volunteer, sell tickets, post fliers, invite your friends and come enjoy a wonderful day at Grove Avenue!

Don't Forget – Baked goods are needed to sell for the United Methodist Women.

Looking Ahead:

Farmer's Market

Tentative start date late May or early June

Annual Conference

Tentative dates: June 5th – June 8th

Lenten Activities

Tuesday, April 2nd – Lenten Prayer Service at Grove Ave. UMC at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, April 3rd – Moxham Ministerium's Lenten Luncheon at Moxham Church of the Brethren at 11:00 am

Wednesday, April 10th – Moxham Ministerium's Lenten Luncheon at Moxham Lutheran Church at 11:00 am

Thursday, April 18th – Maundy Thursday Communion at Christ UMC from 1:00-2:00 pm

Thursday, April 18th – Ignite the Valley's Maundy Thursday Service at Park Ave. UMC at 7:00 pm

Friday, April 19th – Ignite the Valley's Good Friday Service at Grove Ave. UMC at 7:00 pm. Cross procession from Park Ave. UMC to Grove Ave. UMC starting at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, April 21st – Easter Sunrise Service at Christ UMC at 7:30 am, breakfast at 8:30 am

Sunday, April 21st – Easter Services: 9:00 am Contemporary Service, 10:45 Traditional Service

A Hope-Filled Relationships' Update

It has been suggested that I provide a monthly update for everyone about Hope-Filled Relationships. I think that is a great idea. Sometimes it is hard for me to pause for a few minutes to see what we have done together over the last month and to give us a moment to see what we want to work towards in the month to come. Please feel free to offer me feedback and suggestions around anything that we are up to. I am always willing to listen because this effort involves all of us and our baptismal call to be kingdom builders in the world.

Thankfully, it seems that that the hardest part of winter has passed. I will can now focus more on getting to know the neighborhood and its residents. I spent most of the winter getting to know many Johnstown organizations like United Way and Cambria Community Action. I got to visit the WPAC office a couple of times to meet the folks there and see what resources they have that we can use. I visited multiple UMC churches from Belmont to Calvary in the Westend and even preached at Arbutus a couple of times. I am participating in the Moxham Ministerium with other neighborhood churches. I think this organization can become very vibrant for this community and I look forward to building relationships with other neighborhood churches and seeing what we can do together. We already have some new ideas for things in the summer. I'll keep you posted. As you may or may not know, the Moxham Cooperative has folded and been rolled into Ignite the Valley. Also I am currently serving as Secretary for UM Human Services. There have been so many people to meet and organizations with which to become familiar. I even attended two WPAC workshops. The WPAC grant application for my renewal has been turned in as well as a request for a WPAC Advance number for Hope-filled Relationships to aid in fundraising.

Going forward, I plan to focus on expanding some things through the Free Store, for example, bringing in guest resources who can help residents around job-hunting, landlord issues or health resources, etc... and starting a last Thursday of the month meal for Free Store folks through the Pittsburgh Food Bank because funds tend to run out towards the end of the month. Also HFR and the Free Store are looking into 501c3 status either as our own organization or perhaps under the Community Foundation. We are talking with experts to see what is the smartest move. She will be going on a WPAC Mission Trip to Louisiana in May as well as visiting some family at that time. The UMCOR site in Louisiana is the program she was working with before coming to Johnstown.

Please continue to pray for Moxham and the residents as well as ourselves as we journey together in this crazy and broken world. We need each other and lest we forget, God is at work at Grove AND in Moxham. Let us call upon the Holy Spirit to fill us with love and grace and strength as we continue together. Are you ready? Keep that welcoming spirit alive just like you have welcomed and embraced me. I am thankful to be here with you. Thank you!



Lastly, I just wanted to say what a joy it was for me to host the First Annual Mardi Gras Party for Grove Ave. UMC and I look forward to it being an annual event and celebration for us. Next year, we'll ramp up the music and I'll lead a "Second Line."

Blessings,
Natalie

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

Around the District

Active Shooter Class

Homestead Avenue UMC would like to host an Active Shooter Class **April 9th at 6:30 pm**. The class would be facilitated by Tom Owens, Cambria County Sheriff. If you have interest in attending the class, please contact Stacey at the District office, 814-361-2464. All are welcome to attend!

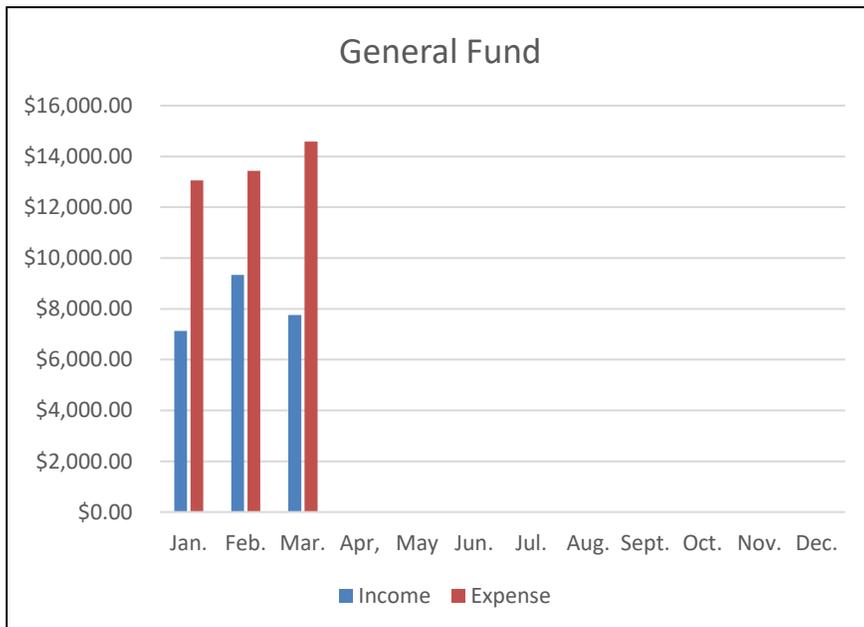
Save The Date!

Our Johnstown District Conference will be held on **Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm** at the Belmont United Methodist Church this year. All pastors are expected to hold this date on their calendars so that they may attend.

2019 Faith Night at PNC Park – Save The Date!

7th Annual Faith Night next season is going to be held on **Saturday, June 22, 2019**. It will be a 4:05 pm game vs. the San Diego Padres. With it being an earlier presentation and on a Saturday, we're expecting the largest turnout that we've ever had. Group reservations of 10 or more will begin next week. It is highly recommended making your group reservation as soon as possible do to the popularity of this event. You don't need to know the number of tickets right now. They are just taking deposits towards a block of seats (10 or more seats). You'll then have until Friday, May 17 to let them know your final number, at which point you'll also pay the balance. For group reservations: Chad Glover 412-325-4756.

Finance Report



The chart shows the income and expenses as of March 26, 2019. We would like to thank everyone who has given to the Winter Free Will Offering. So far, we brought in \$852.00. If you haven't given to the Free Will offering yet and would like to, there are still envelopes left.

In the month of March, we had some unordinary expenses. The organ needed repaired and an electrician was called in. We finally got the sidewalks repaired and as Tom Charette announced during a recent worship service that the cost was lower than the original bid.

Worship Team News

As part of our continual evaluation of worship, these issues were discussed at March's meeting:

* We would like to read more JOYS on Sunday's prayer cards! *In the midst of your concerns, where do you find Jesus?* Also, because the Bulletin lists names of those who need our continual prayers, please use Sunday's prayer cards for new petitions. Are there any people named in the Bulletin whose situation has improved? Please email or call the church office to update the list.

Here are a few suggestions for the writing of your intentions: What are the themes of this Sunday's Scripture readings - what season of the liturgical year are we celebrating? What are noteworthy national or international news events of this week? What challenges is the Church facing today? What are some of the chronic problems we face at home, at work, in our local community? Are there special local events, national holidays, landmark dates or anniversaries to be aware of this week? Are there any specific Grove Avenue UMC needs to address? Who are the sick or deceased to remember in prayer this week?

* Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer notify churches of a person's admittance. Please call the church office to notify the Pastor if you or a family member are in the hospital and in need of a visit and prayers.

* We have been guilty of starting our Sunday services late! Perhaps we can work on preparing ourselves to worship by saving our Fellowship time for after services and by noticing when Eric begins with Announcements. Sunday mornings are busy times, especially for Pastor Adam. If you need to talk with him (more than a quick hello!), please call the church office for an appointment so that your concern may be properly addressed.

* We know you miss organ music! We are trying to secure an organist on a consistent basis.

* Worship songs and hymns are selected, with careful thought, for their relevance to the Scripture and seasonal themes. We try to introduce new music as appropriate.

* Our current Sunday Scripture series, The Gospel of John, was chosen to carry us through Lent and Easter. John is different from the synoptic gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke. The weekly readings are long, yet full of the foundations of our Christian faith. Feel free to close your eyes and absorb the message!

* Quality liturgies are important to Grove Avenue United Methodist Church - not only for us, but also for those we hope to *reach with Christ, one person at a time*. We are excited to announce that our audio-visual system will be upgraded in the near future!



* As always, please contact any member of the Worship Team (*Pastor Adam, Pastor Deb, Karen Allshouse, Donna Bako, Denise Baldwin, Jan Furdella, Lois Graham, Veronica James, Eileen and Eric Stuver*) if you have questions, concerns or praises!

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.