

**Grove Avenue
United Methodist Church**

501 Grove Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15902
(814) 539-8684

THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the Grove Avenue United Methodist Church

From the Pastor

**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. 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Fri. 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

501 Grove Avenue,
Johnstown, PA 15902
Phone: (814) 539-8684

Email:

groveaveumc501@gmail.com

Website: www.groveaveumc.com

You are my hiding place;
You shall preserve me from trouble;
You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah
Psalm 32:7

Greetings in the Name of Jesus:

I grew up in a house where spring meant opening doors and windows and letting in the fresh air while also giving the house a good cleaning. Amy and I still find comfort in the practice of spring cleaning. I also find that opening and cleaning out can stir up things that some of us do not want to discover. Sometimes when we start to clean up, we find that it takes more than soap and water to fix. How often has a simple, joyful task turned into a full-blown project, with costs that we don't wish to pay? In May, Grove Avenue will be undertaking some much-needed spring cleaning. It is my wish that we find joy, hope, peace, love, and even a bit of the unexpected.

Blessings
Pastor Adam

*Happy
Mother's Day*

WELCOME TO THE **MAY 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 JUNE 2019 ISSUE ARE DUE FRIDAY, MAY 17

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.

May Birthdays

4 – Becky Charette*
5 – Doris Jones**
6 – Lloyd Hughes**
6 – Mariah Michalides
11 – Brenda Mills
13 – Joshua Rose
14 – Sue Birchfield
20 – Bill Hiner**
23 – Jack McLaughlin**
23 – Natalie Marionneaux
26 – Becky Bracken
31 – Mason Reffner

Becky Charette
423 Girard St.
Johnstown, PA 15905

Doris Jones
529 Forest Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15902

Lloyd Hughes
119 Fieldstone
Johnstown, PA 15904

**Homebound
**80 or over*

Bill Hiner
175 Crestview Dr.
Davidsville, PA 15928

Jack McLaughlin
202 Melvin St.
Johnstown, PA 15904

May Anniversaries

7 – Ron and Natalie Hudec
16 – John and Donna Bako
18 – Dave and Sue Allison
24 – Jack and Donna McLaughlin



Serving Grove Avenue in May

Ushers

Bob Birchfield
Sue Birchfield
John James
Veronica James



May Scriptures

Sunday, May 5
Scripture: TBD

Sunday, May 12
Scripture: TBD

Sunday, May 19
Scripture: TBD

Sunday, May 26
Scripture: TBD

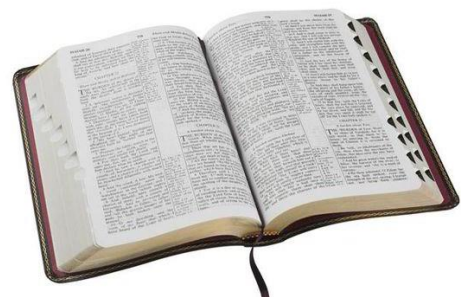
Scripture Readers

Contemporary Service

5 – Lois Graham
12 – David Graham
19 – Karen Hohman
26 – Tom Charette

Traditional Service

5 – Bob Birchfield
12 – Bill Brice
19 – Gail Hiner
26 – Georgia Yeager



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News Around the Pews

New Member, Baptisms, and More

On **April 7th** we had a fun filled blended service. We welcomed Ryan Thomas, Youth Leader, into our church family; Mason Reffner was baptized and Phyllis Pavlick was reaffirmed; and recognized scholarship recipients: Hannah Weatherford, Jeffrey Kehl, II, and Beverly Escontrias.

Another big highlight was watching the children do a skit which ended with all the children singing "Jesus Loves Me". They did a fantastic job. Thanks to Donna Bako, Georgia Tiffany, and Ryan Thomas for working with the children endlessly. Also, thanks to Bob Birchfield for playing a part in the skit.



AA Meetings

Grove Ave UMC will now become a location for open AA meetings starting **Friday, May 17 at 6:00 pm** in the basement. If anyone would like to run a meeting, please contact Natalie.

For Your Information

Our new office hours are Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am-1:00 pm and Fridays: 8:00 am-12:00 pm.

The church office will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

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.

Graduation Sunday

On **Sunday, June 9th** we will recognize the following graduates:

Hannah Mitchell, Andrea Kovaloski, James McAfee

If you are a graduate and would like to be recognized for your achievement and hard work, please contact the office by Thursday, May 23rd.

Happy Mother's Day

It's a difficult task to describe our mothers and the impact they have made on our lives. Although all mothers are different, there are certain traits they share such as the nurturing, teaching, and guiding of children and youth.

To celebrate Mother's Day, you may make a donation in honor or memory of your mother. Two options are available to you this year. You may designate your gift to help defray the cost of summer camp for children and youth of the church, or you may wish to make a donation to the Mission Work Area Fund here at Grove Avenue.

A listing of those remembered or honored will appear in the Mother's Day bulletin and in the June Messenger. To make a donation, please complete the form below and return it to the church office with payment by Sunday, May 5.

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY – May 12, 2019

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the General Fund.

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

PRESENTED BY

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

Mark Your Calendars

United Methodist Women

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

Visitor from the Past

Luella Kreiger will portray Mary, Mother of Jesus at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1000 Scalp Ave., on **Monday, May 20th at 7:00 pm**. Light refreshments will be served. Love offering will be collected.

Camp on the Go

We are partnering with Camp Allegheny to bring Camp on the Go to Moxham, again this year. It is in the planning stages right now. Check your Sunday bulletins and upcoming newsletters for more information.



Farmer's Market

ATTENTION ALL BAKERS:

The Farmer's Market will be starting soon and along with that, will be our baked goods table. Sharon Robertson will be looking for volunteers to bake. Not a baker? Not to worry, you can help by donating money to help with the cost of purchasing the baking items.

Another need is volunteers to sit at the table to sell baked good. This is an opportunity to meet our neighbors. We have established regular customers who come back week after week.

If you think you might be interested, contact Sharon Robertson for more information. The Farmer's Market is in our parking lot on Thursdays from 3:00-6:00 pm.

Annual Conference

This year's Annual Conference is **June 6th through June 8th** at Grove City College. Please remember Pastor Adam, our lay representative, and those joining them in your prayers as they attend the Western PA Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Please call the church office with any pastoral emergencies you may have during that time.

Around the District

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.

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

Missions

Highmark Walk for Community

Please help raise money for Johnstown District United Methodist Human Services @ CURVE STADIUM in Altoona on **Saturday, May 18** – 1mile walk starts at 9:15.

<http://hcf.convio.net/site/TR/Johnstown/HighmarkWalk...>

Human Services started after the 1977 flood and has evolved into program touching and supporting many lives throughout the Johnstown area.

Three major areas of focus

1. Bridges to Success Network works to alleviate suffering, support people in transition, and eliminate poverty in our community.
2. Project Shoes provides new, well-fitting, seasonally appropriate footwear for school-age children.
3. Franklin Street Food Pantry provides a three to five-day food supply for over 400 food insecure individuals each month.

PLEASE donate to disrupt the cycle of poverty and transform lives.

Thank you for supporting our team in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.



Hope Filled Relationships Quick Update:

- My position's funding approved by WPAC for grant
- Grove Ave. UMC to become sight for Moxham AA meetings starting Friday, May 17, 6pm. This will start out as an open meeting setting. Moxham Church of the Brethren hosts NA meetings on Mondays at 7pm. Please share this information with family and friends.
- Angela, a new church attendee and her family, has volunteered to help change the church sign weekly. THANK YOU for stepping up to do this fun thing.
- I'll be on a WPAC Mission Trip to an UMCOR site in Louisiana April 27-May 4. This is actually the job I came from as a case manager helping folks' recovery from the 2017 Louisiana flood.
- From May 5-11, I'll be doing speaking engagements for the General Board of Global Ministries about Hope-Filled Relationships visiting churches, Sunday School classes and UMW circles.
- I'll sneak in some visits with family and as much crawfish as I can.
- I have done some work with individuals in the neighborhood around housing/landlord issues and community service hours.
- I will need to spend some time in May preparing for WPAC Annual Conference
- Relationships building between members and neighbors is happening and it's a wonderful thing.

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

Book Study Synopsis: WHEN HELPING HURTS

This book was very informative and insightful and challenging. Here are some highlights. If another opportunity arises to take this study, I highly recommend it. It is very worth your time. Please consider it.

What is poverty? To most North Americans, it is more about a lack of material goods: money, insurance, housing. To those who are poor, it's more about not feeling worthy, not having a support system, stress AND shame. Anything around a car breaking down or a visit to the hospital or losing a job becomes a crisis and everything else falls apart. Poverty involves the individual and personal responsibility BUT also involves systems that do not make it easy to get out of poverty. Both contribute to poverty. Conservatives tend to blame lack of personal responsibility and self-reliance. Liberals tend to blame societal and governmental systems that keep people down.

It's easy to judge poor people with our North American mindset – they don't want to work, they are milking the system, it's their own fault... It is easy to judge when we have a safe place to live, a car, a job, health insurance, an abundance of food, clothing AND family and friends. We can go out to eat, go to a movie, go on vacation, can go visit relatives or friends. Poor people might not have reliable transportation, might only be able to find part-time work, might not be able to live in a safe neighborhood and might not have a healthy and caring support system. Because poor people are always in survival mode, one bump in the road makes it worse. It is hard to be hopeful when your life is a daily struggle. It's not an excuse. It just is what it is.

How do we make a difference? How do we change things? How do we reach people and give them hope?

No one is better than anyone else. It is easy to think we might be superior. Poor people have to deal with being put down and made to feel less all the time. Check yourself. How do you treat poor people? As if something is wrong with them? Or as your equal? Try treating people as people – seeing their inherent worth as children of God. Give them respect and dignity when you speak and interact with them. It's the least we can do. They are just like us. Perhaps bad luck, mental illness or generations of poverty have them where they are. Perhaps, whether we want to admit it or not, it really is just luck that has us where we are – being born into a family that can afford college or health care or a safe place to live, being born white, being born in a certain neighborhood. Don't get defensive – oh, I worked hard to be where I am.... Poor people work hard too, just to have a few extra canned goods in the cabinet. Really, luck and some good choices have us where we are. Can we find it in ourselves to be loving and compassionate and walk with each other? Can we help someone else make a few good choices that may change their circumstances? But moreover, change hopelessness to hope, a glimpse of light that can change a heart, a soul and a situation? Are you willing to meet your poor neighbor as your equal – learn about them and what has them in the situation they are in? Are you willing to meet them eye to eye and reflect back to them their inherent value?

Will you come volunteer at the Free Store one Thursday afternoon a month? Get out of your comfort zone. See how other people struggle. Share the light of Christ in your heart with the people of Moxham. God has been here and is here and will continue to be here. Be part of the love of Christ in the world. Christ has no hands or feet but ours, no eyes or voices but ours. Will you share the light that is in you? You might be surprised to find the light of the Lord in our neighbors. Community is a beautiful gift. But we can only build it together. See you on Thursday.



NEXT MONTH – Article about Creating an Outward Mindset

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

April Recap

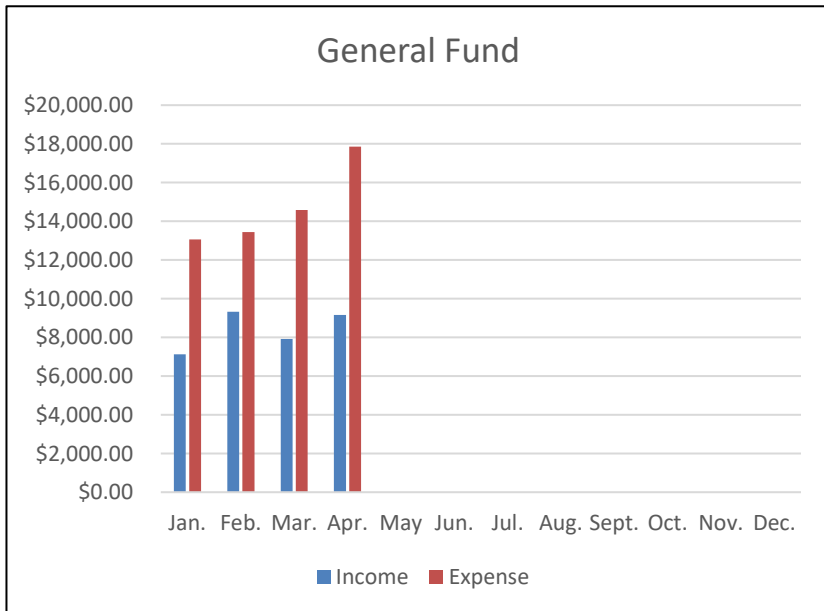
Community Easter Egg Hunt

Our second Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt was held April 13th. Approximately 100 kids enjoyed the “hunt”. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare for this wonderful event by stuffing eggs, donating candy or money; and those

who helped during the day of the Easter Egg hunt by setting up and cleaning up. The Easter Bunny and Chopper, the Tomahawks Mascot, made an appearance.



Finance Report



The chart above shows the income and expenses as of April 22, 2019.

Stuver's Nursery Coupons

Stuver's coupons are now available from Sharon Robertson. Help support the General Fund while purchasing your favorite flowers.

Prices:

- Flats – \$12.25
- Hanging Baskets – \$15.50

Flamingos Are Back

Have someone flocked for any occasion. Donation for flocking is \$10.00. See Donna Bako (255-2900) to set up a date. All proceeds will benefit the General Fund.