



**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

Dear Friends,

A chicken and a pig were travelling to Johnstown. On the way, they stopped at Eat N Park for breakfast. They were handed menus that read: TODAY'S SPECIAL: HAM & EGGS. The chicken looked at the pig and said, "I guess you could say I'm committed." The pig peered over his menu and replied, "You may be committed, but I'm all in!!!"

This story makes an important point. It's one thing to say, "I have a commitment to Jesus and to his Church!" It's quite another to be all in – actively participating in the Church's mission and ministries.

Congregations normally have an abundance of chickens—people who believe their commitment is accomplished by dropping some eggs into a basket—showing up for worship or contributing some money. But what if more people were involved? What would happen if all of us invested our time, energy, leadership, and talents to the ministries of the church?

Grove Avenue is a good congregation, but it will be a better congregation, if more people are involved. Like the pig in the story, it calls for sacrifice. Each of us must discern how God wants us to expend our resources, where God wants us to serve.

*Will you take the time to ponder and pray over these questions?*

- What must I sacrifice in order to be more involved in the ministries of Grove Avenue?
- What keeps me from making that sacrifice? What would happen if I did?
- Can I trust God's lead in this?

If you're serious about following Jesus, be prepared to make some sacrifices. Here are some ways to begin.

**Participate in a Bible Study** – Pastor John will lead one on Tuesdays at 2 PM at Homestead Avenue. Pastor Carol will lead a study on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM at Grove Avenue. Both start on September 10.

**Charge Conference will be held on November 18.** In the coming weeks we will be putting together the slate of officers for the coming year. Please consider how God is calling you to use your gifts and graces. YOU are needed! Whether in an on-going or short-term ministry; whether in a task you've done before or one you're willing to try for the first time, **Grove Avenue needs your involvement!** And when you invest your time and energy, you will be blessed.

So when you're asked to serve, when you see a need for volunteers, please reflect on the parable of The Chicken and the Pig. Remember whatever God has in mind for "Today's Special" on the church's menu, you are needed!

Together, we are the church,  
Pastor Carol

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

### Sunday Schedule:

**9:00 a.m.**

Contemporary Worship Service/  
Children's SS

Followed by Fellowship Time

**9:15 a.m.**

Adult Sunday school

**10:45 a.m.**

Traditional Worship Service/  
Children's SS

### Staff:

**PASTOR:** Revs. Carol & John Hickman

**LAY LEADER:** Eric Stuver

**ADMIN. ASST:** Jennifer Robertson

**PRaise BAND DIR:** Denise Baldwin

**NURSERY DIR:** Destiny Wallace

**CUSTODIAN:** Jay Adams

**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

# WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER 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](http://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 OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE ARE DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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](http://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.

## Hospitalized?

Hospitals don't contact churches when their parishioners are in the hospital. If you or a family member are hospitalized and would like a visit from the pastor, please contact the church office.

## 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 the church office.*

*Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.*

# September Birthdays

7 – Zoey Barrett  
10 – Christopher James  
10 – Mya Sabo  
11 – Dorothy Lamberson  
13 – Kailin Weaver  
14 – Donna Bako  
17 – Zachariah Way  
18 – Mary Rowles\*,\*\*  
23 – Hannah Mitchell  
23 – Jeffrey Kehl, II  
11 – Richard Wisor\*  
24 – Jan Thierry  
26 – Kenzie Hagens  
28 – Deb Groeger  
30 – Eric Stuver  
30 – Enio Esteban

# September Anniversaries

3 – John and Veronica James  
16 – Dave and Brenda Mills  
17 – Bob and Sue Birchfield



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

Please remember the following members on their birthdays.

**Mary Rowles**  
Richland Health Care & Rehabilitation  
349 Vo-Tech Dr.  
Johnstown, PA 15904

**Dorothy Lamberson**  
105 Pocahontas Dr.  
Johnstown, PA 15905



## Serving Grove Avenue in September

### Ushers

Bob Birchfield  
Sue Birchfield  
John James  
Veronica James



### Scripture Readers

#### Contemporary Service

1 – Hannah Mitchell  
8 – David Graham  
15 – Karen Hohman  
22 – Tom Charette  
29 – Joint Service at  
Homestead Ave. UMC

#### Traditional Service

1 – Sue Birchfield  
8 – Dave Aikey  
15 – Georgia Miller  
22 – Pat Aikey  
29 – Joint Service at  
Homestead Ave. UMC

## September Scriptures

### Sunday, September 1

**Scriptures:** Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14: 25-33

**Sermon Title:** Your Place at the Table

### Sunday, September 8

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 18: 1-11  
Luke 14: 25-33

**Sermon Title:** Follower or Disciple

### Sunday, September 15

Pastor John preaching

### Sunday, September 22

### Sunday, September 29

Joint Service at Homestead Ave. UMC

*Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.*

# News Around the Pews

## Our Sympathies

Our sympathies go to Dick Hughes and family on the passing of his wife, Dorothy, who passed away July 27<sup>th</sup>.

## For Your Information

### Office Closed

The office will be closed **September 2<sup>nd</sup>** for the Labor Day holiday.

## Meeting Schedule Changes

Starting **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** the Finance, Trustees, and Council will meet on the second Monday starting at 5:00 pm. The schedule is as follows:

5:00 – Finance

6:00 – Trustees

7:00 – Council

## Our Parsonage

On July 24<sup>th</sup> we had a church conference to vote on putting the parsonage up for sale. Tom Charette, Trustees Chair, gave a list of reasons why the Trustees wish to sell the parsonage. A vote was taken, and it was unanimous.

## Free Store

In July, the Free Store celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary. The Free Store is opened on Thursdays from 2:00-5:00 pm. If you are in the area during that time, stop in and see the great work that is being done. It is a great way to connect with our neighbors. As Deb Groeger always says, “we will be open until there is not more need”.



## Summer Recap

### Kidz Korner

In lieu of Vacation Bible School, Moxham Lutheran Church held Kidz Korner for five Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 pm. Those involved had a great time reaching out to the community to share the good news of God's love. Grove Avenue United Methodist Church looks forward to working with Moxham Lutheran Church next year. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help.

### Camp-on-the-Go

Once again, we teamed up with Camp Allegheny to deliver a camping experience to the children of Moxham. Approximately 20 kids attended this great adventure. Thanks to all who volunteered, especially those in the kitchen that prepared lunches for all the kids. A BIG thank you goes to Franklin St. UMC and Beulah UMC for letting us borrow their vans to transport the kids to Camp Allegheny for the day. The kids had a blast.

*Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.*

# Mark Your Calendars

## United Methodist Women

All are welcome to the UMW meeting on **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm**. Come learn the purpose of our mission and enjoy the fellowship. Snacks appreciated

## Moxham Community Block Party

Join us **3:00-6:00 pm** for a fun Saturday on **September 7<sup>th</sup>** for Moxham's Annual Block Party. There will be games, food, music, prayer and worship. We plan to have a tent and table set up. Come meet and greet our neighbors and enjoy the festivities. Please contact Natalie Marionneaux to volunteer.

## Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will start up on **September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am** during the Contemporary Service. Come and accept the challenge of faith for another year of growing in Christ.



## Fall Bible Studies

Each of us are called to grow in faith. Being part of a study group encourages us in our faith journey. You are invited to participate in a group study, which starts **Tuesday, September 10**.

Pastor John will lead a Bible Study at 2:00 pm at Homestead Avenue UMC. The first few weeks will be on Genesis. Bring your Bibles, a heart to learn and a willingness to share.

Pastor Carol will lead a study at 6:30 pm at Grove Avenue UMC. We will explore our Christian beliefs through the Wesleyan lens. This study is for both long term and new Methodists.

Come and grow in faith as we build relationships within the Charge. Everyone is welcomed!

## CGH Charge News

Our first joint, blended worship service will be held on **Sunday, September 29, 2019 at 10 am**. Homestead Avenue is hosting the service and the Covered Dish Luncheon to follow, with Christ and Grove Ave. members assisting.

For the luncheon, Homestead Ave. will supply the meat and drinks, and all those attending are asked to bring a dish to share – either a salad, potato, vegetable, or dessert.

Please call the Grove Avenue UMC Office (539-8684) to register *or* sign the form on the table in back of the church. Reservations should be made by September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

During this fun, informal event, the CGH Charge will formally welcome Pastors Carol and John to our churches. We hope you will join us!

Choir practice is Wednesdays at 7:00 pm for anyone interested in singing in the choir on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Lois Graham  
PPRC Chair



## Looking Ahead:

Flea Market – October 12 & 19  
UM Women District Meeting – October 17  
Trunk or Treat – October  
Charge Conference – November 18

# Hope-Filled Relationships

## A Reflection

Moxham is a place that might appear to have a problem with scarcity but what rather if it really is an opportunity to reveal God's abundance? And that abundance lives and thrives in the cracks of those who live here and show up every day in a life and in a world that tells them they are not enough.

Is it their divine nature that doesn't let them give up, even though it may appear so? They have not laid down to die... there is a light in the dark and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

Perhaps we are like the story when Jesus fed the multitudes – when there appeared there was not enough. We are called to bear witness to the goodness of God – “Yes And!” And it is present here and now – we are called and invited to see the world as God does. Do we see our sisters and brothers, the light within them, their call and purpose as part of **OUR** story. We would be less without our neighbors. How do we see “them?”

Our light and love in this congregation is not meant to be contained in these walls. We have built community here and together. It is not time to take what we have built beyond the comfort of these walls and extend our hands in invitation to know the brothers and sisters who live across the street and around the corner? Let us ask our brothers and sisters if we can walk with them, to know and understand each other, share our dreams for what life can be like as we work to build the kingdom together, hand-in-hand, with each other, in community, in Moxham, in Johnstown.

God is offering us something new – will we meet our brothers and sisters? Come, extend a hand of invitation any Thursday afternoon from 2-5pm at the Free Store.

*“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”*  
(Isaiah 43:19)

## Choose Joy

Dedicate Yourself To Thankfulness - Today is a day for you to choose JOY! Gratitude and thankfulness need to be more and more part of your core “curriculum.” It will only lead to good things for you, and also, as a servant of God's people – for the people you love and for the people you serve. Take to heart the verse from Colossians 3:15b: “Dedicate yourself to thankfulness.” Remember now, that being grateful and thankful – to be joyful – is just as much of a vulnerable choice as is the act of falling in love. If you take the risk and the courage to be grateful today, you are choosing, right here and now, NOT to be filled with the poison of negativity. If you choose to be joyful, to be filled with gratitude, the demons of jealousy and arrogance will drift away from your heart. If you choose to be a thankful person today, you will be less consumed with yourself and your problems, and then – your creativity will be able to burst forth and you will not be able to keep yourself from sharing those fruits with others. Consider the choice of giving to another today, without any conditions attached. Consider the gift of a pure freedom that comes when you will be able to give to someone else without the need to “get something back.” If you can make such a choice today, you will have a day filled with the realization that you really are God's child, and feel down to your toes that you are loved beyond your wildest dreams. There is so much to receive if you ponder this path today. So take a moment before you set out – right here, right now – and choose to give thanks. Choose to be joyful. *David Haas*

*Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.*

# Fundraisers

## Farmer's Market

During the Farmer's Market so far this year, we have raised \$313.31 to benefit the General Fund. This will be our last year selling baked goods. Thanks to everyone who has helped us throughout the last 10 years. Sharon Robertson couldn't have done it without all of you. Whether you donated items or cash, manned the table, or bought the baked goods, all was appreciated. Below you will see what was made during the last 4 years.

2016 – \$1,046.50

2017 – \$1,157.17

2018 – \$ 842.60

2019 – \$ 313.31

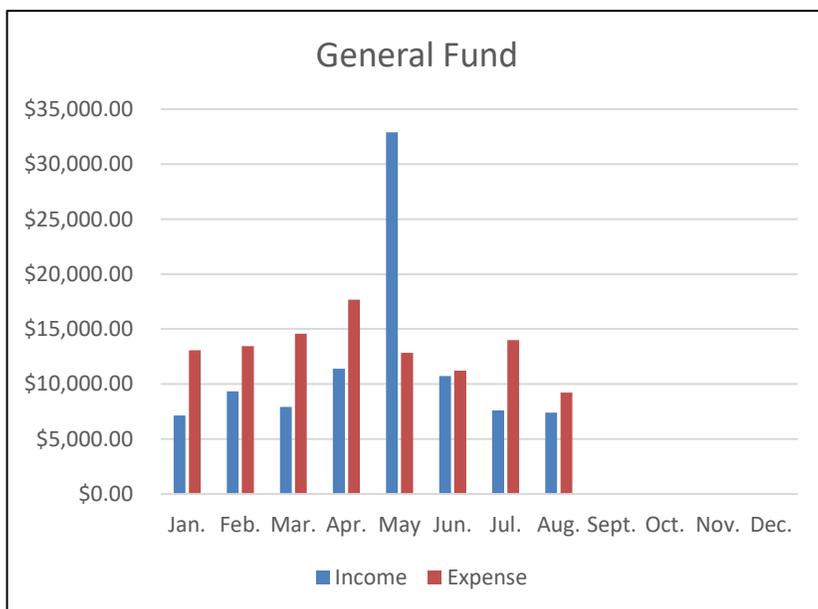
## Flocked by Flamingos

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. So far, we raised \$234.00. If you haven't flocked anyone yet, there is still time. Flocking will go on as weather permits.

## Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends"

This year's "Friends Helping Friends" will be **Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**. We will have a table set up from 12:00-6:00 pm. If you are interested in helping out, contact Sharon Robertson. Last year we made \$325.00, this year our goal is \$400.00. Help us beat it by selling to your family, friends, and neighbors.

# Finance Report



The chart shows the income and expenses as of May 26, 2019. In May, we needed to transfer \$25,000 from our Memorial Endowment to the General Fund.