



**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/
Children's SS
Followed by Fellowship Time

9:15 a.m.

Adult Sunday school

10:45 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service

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

This is a season of change, both in nature and the church. The days get shorter; there is a decided nip in the air as fall changes to winter. Within the church, we move from All Saints to Christ the King, followed by the first Sunday of Advent. As the liturgical year ends and begins again, it is a time of joy and activity.

On November 3, All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives and souls of members of our church family, who have died in the past year. We give thanks for those who have entered the church triumphant.

John Spotz
Bill Jones
Dorothy Hughes
Becky Charette
Eleanor Pountney

May we serve as they served. May their legacy of faith live on through us! This is also a time to celebrate all souls, the unique spiritual dimension of every person. We need to pay attention to the wonder of the soul, to contemplate our relationship with our God and with God's people.

This is the perfect time to strengthen and enrich our souls by dedicating more time to spiritual disciplines, both as individuals and as a community of faith. As we engage in acts of piety—studying scripture, praying, tithing, fasting, attending worship, sharing in the sacraments, living healthy, and witnessing—our relationship with God is strengthened. Acts of mercy—doing good works, visiting the sick and those in prison, feeding the hungry, giving generously to the needs of others, seeking justice, ending oppression and ministering with the poor—strengthens our relationship with others.

This season of change gives us the opportunity to re-evaluate the status of our souls. Are we living up to the call that God has made on our lives? Is it well with our souls? If not, this is the perfect time to make changes. May it be so.

Blessings,
Carol Hickman

WELCOME TO THE
NOVEMBER 2019
ISSUE OF *THE MESSENGER*

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 DECEMBER 2019 ISSUE
ARE DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

Articles may be dropped off or emailed to the church
office.

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.

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.

November Birthdays

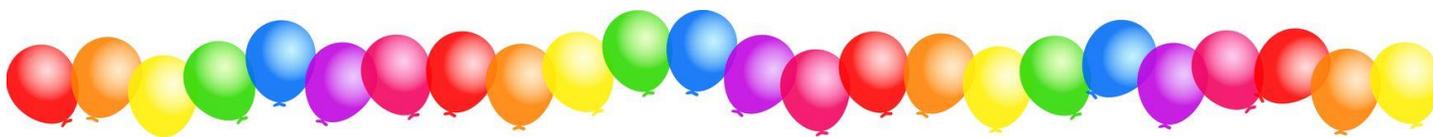
2 – Beth Aikey
4 – Georgia Kerrick
7 – Darlene Costlow
15 – Rev. John Hickman
16 – Pablo Escontrias
21 – Dick Hughes**
22 – Heather Escontrias
24 – Vivian Young**
27 – Roger Felix
27 – Bonnie Laidig
28 – Susan Mayer

****Homebound
80 or over*

Please remember the following members on their birthdays.

Dick Hughes
In Texas until spring

Vivian Young
555 Tire Hill Rd.
Johnstown, PA 15905



Serving Grove Avenue in November

Ushers

Dennis Yeager
Merilee Cook
Jim Cook
Rich Robertson

Scripture Readers

Contemporary Service

3 – Lois Graham
10 – David Graham
17 – Karen Hohman
24 – Tom Charette

Traditional Service

3 – Heather Brice
10 – Tom Sabo
17 – Sue Birchfield
24 – Karen Allshouse

LOVE GROW SERVE



Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

News Around the Pews

Our Sympathies

On October 14th, we said good-bye to a great lady. The following was written by Karen Allshouse: Although Eleanor didn't have any surviving family, you were her family. She was a special person who cared about and worried about so many people in her church family, the Valley Pike family and in her old Moxham neighborhood. When you talk to anyone who knew her, they always have a special story or remembrance of Eleanor and things that she did for them.

FYI

The office will be closed November 28th and November 29th in observance for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Sale of Parsonage

The parsonage had been sold for \$41,830.00. After all the agent fees and other fees we will receive \$37,973.00 that needs to be used for building repairs including the sewage project.

Our District Library

Several people have asked me on how to check books out at the library. I talked with Sarah Harris and she said just write your name and date on the note pad and leave the book tag on the desk. Anything with a tag can be checked out.

We Need Your Thoughts and Input!

The recommendation has been made and approved by Council to develop a plan to move to one weekly worship service. Neither of the worship services have over 30 people. Dividing the congregation into two services has led to the formation of two separate churches, which are divided by music. But unfortunately the division extends beyond the style of worship. Having one service will enable us to forge new bonds within the church. The spirit moves differently with more people in worship.

Each and every parishioner is encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings. What would one worship service look like? What would enhance your ability to worship our God in a different setting? What time would be most convenient for you?

We want to be transparent in this process. Nothing has been decided. Nothing will be decided without your input. Please take a moment to complete the attached form and place it in the offering plate. Also on November 17 and 24, you are invited to share your thoughts during the time between the services. Also if desired, we will set up a formal meeting. We want to ensure that all voices are heard, all opinions and feeling considered.

Which worship service do you attend?

Why? What speaks to your heart?

Do you ever attend the other service?

What did you like about it?

What did not speak to your heart?

If there is only one service

What would you like to be included in the service?

What time would be best for you?

Name (optional) _____

Mark Your Calendars

United Methodist Women

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

Prayer Time

The week of November 18, we will embark on an advent contemplative prayer time in the place of Bible Study. We will explore opening the door of our hearts to receive Christ. Bible Studies have been on Tuesday at 6:30. The day, time and even location may change so that we can gather in a sanctuary around the altar. More information after October 29.

We will sing, pray and focus on scripture. In our hustle and bustle, leading up to Christmas, contemplative prayer time will allow up to focus on what is important.

CGH Charge Pictorial Directory

Dates: Tuesday 12/10/2019

Times: 2:00 thru 9:00 pm (scheduling every 10 mins)

Place: Homestead Avenue United Methodist @ 101 Homestead Ave, Johnstown, PA 115902

Contact: Jane Gorze' 330-980-6929 after 6 pm or email: gorzeja@yahoo.com.

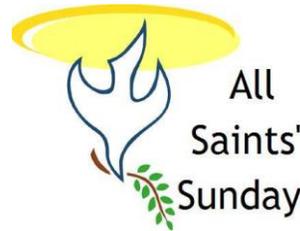
Members can use the below link to schedule: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b2hhvxlq/> or contact Jane at above info. If emailing, please put "church pictures" in subject time. Please do not wait. Need to fill the appointments.

Note: there is no charge for the directories. There is only a charge if you buy pictures. No is expected to buy any pictures. Everyone is free to say no! A photo directory is a valuable tool to help know who people are. Please make time to participate.



All Saints' Sunday

Our tears fall on the heart of God, who dries our tears and binds up our wounds. On November 3, Grove Avenue will celebrate All Saints Sunday at both services as we remember and give thanks for those who have died in the past year. Family or friends are invited to light a candle to honor them and to signify the light of Christ in the midst of darkness. Everyone will have the opportunity to lift up the names of those who have been called home.



This year we will remember:

John Spotz
William Jones
Dorothy Hughes
Becky Charette
Eleanor Pountney

Charge Conference

The CGH Charge Conference will be held on **November 18th at 6:30 pm at Grove Ave. UMC**. This is the official meeting for setting goals, salaries, and electing new officers, and is presided over by our District Superintendent. **ALL CHURCH MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AND VOTE!**

All PPRC members are to attend the PPRC Meeting starting at 6:00 pm



Looking Ahead:

December 8th – Denise's students' Christmas Concert

December 24th – Christmas Eve Services

- 6:00 pm at Homestead Ave. UMC
- 11:00 pm at Grove Ave. UMC

December 29th – 10:00 am Combined service with Homestead Ave. and Christ Churches at Christ UMC

Hope-Filled Relationships

I've been doing A LOT of running around

A few things from SEPTEMBER

I finally got to spend some time with Grove's UMW ladies. UMW is such an amazing organization when you think of all the history of all the women from the UMC church around the country, the time, money and ministry sent around the world that has impacted so many lives. It really is quite powerful.

Moxham had its Annual Block Party and it was fun. We had a tent and gave away cotton candy. You should have seen Eileen and me up to our elbows with cotton candy stuck to us. We had a handful of volunteers from the church to pass out information about Hope-Filled Relationships AND our new MOXHAM PROUD stickers. THANKS TO EVERYONE!!!

Another thing that took up some of my time was finishing up the theological questions required for Deacon Provisional membership. It's only 16 questions but ends up being about 35 typed pages for the answers. There are many hoops to jump through going through the ordination process. My interview with the Johnstown District is at the end of this month. They will approve me or not to go before the Board of Ordained Ministry in January. Then if I make it through that, then I will become Provisional Deacon at Annual Conference next summer – I'll get the title of Reverend. But then I'll begin another training process that will take at least 3 more years. Right now I am working on other paperwork required by the Conference like turning in my college and seminary transcripts, doctor's health approval, credit check, bio info and all kinds of other fun forms to take up my time.

Let's move on to OCTOBER

I attended the bi-annual Church and Community Workers' Conference hosted by Global Ministries in California. We learned things about addiction, immigration, budgets, grant-writing as well as spent time in community. I got to meet the other Church and Community Workers that are doing other good work around the country. The elder who spoke about addiction was an addict for over 30 years and said it took him 11 times before he finally made it through recovery. His story taught me a lot about what is happening in Moxham and the disease that is addiction.

Of course since it is October, the Flea Market happened and I found a few treasures I couldn't live without. I wish I would have been able to be at the Flea Market more but my sisters were in town visiting. Most of you got to meet them. They had a great time. I hope they come again. They know that I am surrounded by a bunch of great people at Grove Ave. and that I now consider this home. AND they brought me the gumbo base and jambalaya base for the 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Party that will happen Sunday, February 23, 2020. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hope-filled Relationships has been selected by the Conference to be part of special 3-year incubator project where we will receive guidance and direction around becoming a financially self-sustaining project down the road. This will be great to help us generate a sustainable ministry for the Moxham community.

I have been asked by Rev. Sung, Johnstown District Superintendent, to be 1 of 5 district participants in the Anti-Racism training sponsored by the Conference to be taught by Crossroads out of Chicago (<http://crossroadsantiracism.org/>). I don't know what this will look like after the training but perhaps we will be able to do presentations to churches about what we learned as we work to dismantle personal and systemic form of racism that still exist in our hearts and in our country.

At the end of October, Lois, Eileen and I will be going to a conference in Columbus, Ohio at Church for All People who had done a fantastic job at building community and being the church without walls. A few members have attended in the past and it is where the idea for the Free Store came from as well as work to get me here also. I look forward to learning many things that we can bring back to Moxham to help build community as we work to build the kingdom!

Thanks so much for letting me be part of the Grove Ave. UMC family. I look forward to the good things that are to come, all in the name of Jesus Christ.

Natalie

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

In The Community

Unwrap Christmas In Moxham

Hope-Filled Relationships is planning a Holiday meal for our neighbors. Please consider offering your time, talent and/or donation to make this a fun and special evening. We will be working with Christ and Homestead and Moxham Lutheran to make this happen. You won't want to not be a part of it. Natalie will be sharing more information throughout November. Event will be Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 pm. Please let Natalie know you are interesting in volunteering.



FYI: Fear not. This is not a in lieu of a Grove Holiday Party; that event will be not be coordinated through HFR. Also HFR will NOT be doing the Hoss meals for our neighbors; we are doing this evening meal instead.

Around the District

Ignite the Valley will hold two events in November

November 9th will be the second annual Chili-Cook Off at Roxbury St. Paul from 4:00-6:00 pm. Proceeds will be split between Ignite the Valley and VFW.

November 23rd will be a Thanksgiving Service at Calvary UMC, 159 Chandler Ave., at 7:00 pm. Tim Rigby will be the guest speaker.

Words of Appreciation

I want to thank everyone for their prayer, email, cards, text messages and personal condolences during this difficult summer. Becky and I felt your preserve.

Tom Charette

Our family at Grandma's Produce would like to thank your church for 10 years of Farmer's Market. We not just sold produce, we created friendships. We appreciate the community outreach programs that your church supports to improve our community and the lives of others

*God's Blessings,
Joe, Mark and Kris Weaver*

I would like to thank you for the visitations, cards and prayers while I was hospitalized. They provided such a wonderful boost. I embraced each and every moment that you shared with me. But, I was not surprised. Grove Avenue has always been a loving, caring and welcoming church. I feel blessed. God is so good.

*Yours in Christ Jesus
John James*



Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

Fundraisers

Trustees Flea Market

Thanks to everyone who helped with this year's Flea Market. We made \$2,152.94.

Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends"

The Boscov's fundraiser was October 16th. We made \$375. Thanks to Kathy Gindlesperger, Bob and Sue Birchfield, Pat Aikey, and Donna Bako for manning the table.

Gift Card Fundraiser

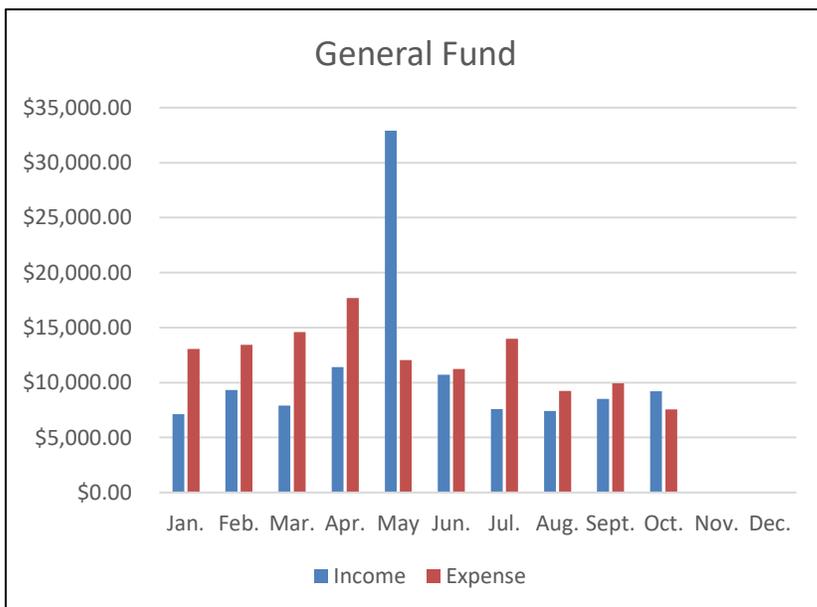
Everybody needs gasoline, groceries, clothing so why not buy a gift card for Giant Eagle, Bi-Lo, Sheetz, Get Go, or Walmart to name a few. Every gift card purchase made through us we get a percentage. There is plenty of restaurant gift cards, too, for those who go out to eat after church. See the church office for an order form. The deadline for orders has been extended until November 17th

Amazon Smile

Make your purchases count, go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-0999187> and Grove Avenue UMC will receive a percentage of the purchase amount. Since 2018 we received \$41.25 from Amazon. Buy a gift card through our fundraising program and we will get a percentage from the gift card purchase plus a percentage from your Amazon percentage.



Finance Report



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

In May, we needed to transfer \$25,000 from our Memorial Endowment to the General Fund.

Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.