



# The Messenger

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Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

## March 2020 Pastor's Message

*On the Threshold*

Dear Friends,

How do we approach the season of Lent with all the amazing, mysterious experiences? How do God's people make Lent relevant? It is harder and harder to connect the seasons of the church, such as Lent, to a world that has moved away from the church, away from the spiritual of being in relationship with the ever present, ever blessing, ever forgiving, ever Eternal God.

Every year this 40-day season, (not counting Sundays) begins on Ash Wednesday and finishes on Easter. How do we as God's people approach Lent, define Lent, practice Lent, and live Lent? How do we as a people take the ashes and make them part of our story today?

Our story...is how God's people approach the season of Lent. We reflect on our personal relationship with God, we examine how we have fallen short, we ask God to change our hearts and then as we live a renewed life, we tell our story.

Each Lent we stand on the threshold, ready to step into the future. We grow in faith as we return to God with the wonder and awe of a child who first hears the story of God's great love in Jesus. Do we dare to cross the threshold, renewing and strengthening our faith? Will we live lives empowered to serve with acts of justice, deeds of kindness and outpouring of love? What would it look like if we experience the newness of being forgiven, accepted and loved? As we prepare for Easter and resurrection of Christ—both 2000 years ago and in our lives today, we stand on the threshold. Lent is an opportunity for a new beginning. You are invited to all the amazing and mysterious experiences that Lent 2020 has to offer. You are invited to turn back to God—who created you, who loves you beyond your imagination. You are invited to proclaim that Jesus is the way to life and to give your heart to him. All you have to do is step over the threshold and experience a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Blessings, *Pastor Carol*

## MONTHLY NEWS

**New Name** You may have noticed that NOW is no longer listed in the upcoming meetings. Instead, you will see COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES listed. The NOW team has not disbanded but has been re-branded. As a congregation, we need to refocus ourselves on ministry, so we are losing the acronym NOW and returning to the more familiar title, COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES. All the elements of our life together are present (Nurture, Outreach, Witness) but we are looking at what we do through the lens of ministry. The purpose of this team is NOT to do all the work or dream all the dreams. Have an idea or a dream? Pass it on! Is there a particular event coming up in the life of our congregation? You will be asked to help. We are all in ministry together; this team just ensures that things move beyond talk and into action. We are on the threshold of something special. Get excited!!

**Farmer's Market** The farmers have decided NOT to continue with the Moxham Farmer's Market. They would like to thank everyone for 10 great years.

**Frank's Flock Sunday School Class** The time for Frank's Flock Class will move from 9:15 am to 9:00 am starting April 19. Everyone is welcome to join the class.

**Thank you for your gift!** A donation was given in John Spotz's name for music.

## FINANCE REPORT

### 2020 GENERAL FUND Activity

Month	Income	Expense	Total
January	\$11,437.52	\$10,248.85	\$1,188.67
February	\$7,900.72	\$13,926.54	(6,025.82)

### ATTENDANCE and GIVING

**NOTE: Weekly contributions can be made through our website.**

2020 Averages	2019 Averages	2018 Averages
January A - 52 G - \$1822.75	January A - 50 G - \$1524.00	January A - 68 G - \$2026.13
February A - 52 G - \$1469.50	February A - 65 G - \$1967.25	February A - 59 G - \$1557.00

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4-Ruth Anne Hollis\*\*

5-Thomas Sabo and  
Beverly Escontrias

7-Theresa Shaffer\*,\*\*

11-Richard McLaughlin

13-Noah Kaelin

17-Ross Stewart

25-Kimberly Esteban

27-Mary Jane Beam\*\* and

Isaiah McLaughlin

*\*Homebound and \*\*80+ addresses:*

Ruth Ann Hollis  
2 Wesley Drive  
Johnstown, PA 15904

Theresa Shaffer  
1712 Soap Hollow Road  
Box 273  
Tire Hill, PA 15959

Mary Jane Beam  
1432 Solomon Street  
Johnstown, PA 15902

## MARCH MINISTER SCHEDULE

### Scripture Readers

1-David Graham; Pat Aikey

8-Lois Graham; Dave Aikey

15-Karen Hohman; Wanda Wilson

22-Tom Charette

29-CGH CHARGE Service

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**United Methodist Women** UMW will meet **March 4 at 1:00 pm**. Come and enjoy the fellowship while learning the purpose of this mission.

**One Service** We will have one service on **March 22 at 10:00**. The Worship Team appreciates all comments and suggestions as we prepare to go to one service beginning Easter Sunday.

**Huge Yard Sale** Park Avenue United Methodist Church is holding a yard sale on Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28 from 8:00 am-1:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit the Park Avenue Food Pantry.

**CGH CHARGE Combined Service** Join us for our next combined service at Grove Avenue UMC on **March 29 at 10:00 am**. Wear casual clothing and experience a Church Camp morning!

**Community Easter Egg Hunt** Council on Ministries is planning a community Easter Egg Hunt for **April 4 at 11:00 am**. Donations of candy, plastic eggs and small items can be placed in the box at the back of the church. You may also make a monetary donation and the shopping will be done for you. Volunteers are needed to help with this project! Please contact Eileen Stuver or Donna Bako.

## LOOKING AHEAD...

**Johnstown District Conference** – Sunday, May 3 at South Fork: Mt Hope UMC at 3:00 pm

**Flea Market** – Tentative dates are May 9 and 16

**CGH CHARGE Combined Service at Christ UMC** – Sunday, May 31 at 10:00 am.  
NOTE: The time might change to accommodate Harriett Miller, Organist.



### Moxham Ministerium Lenten Luncheons

*All services start at 11:00 am followed by a luncheon.*

March 4 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church

March 11 – Moxham Church of the Brethren

March 18 – Grove Avenue United Methodist Church

March 25 – New Hope Church located in Christ UMC

April 1 – Moxham Lutheran Church



## Fundraisers

**Spaghetti Dinner** We will be holding a spaghetti dinner on **March 7 from 3:00-6:00 pm**. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12. Volunteers are needed to help on the day, and cash donations to purchase salad, rolls and dessert would be appreciated needed. To purchase tickets, see Eileen Stuver.

**Gobs--homemade** by the GAUMC GobSquad--are for sale: \$1.50 each / \$16 per dozen. See Eileen Stuver. There will be opportunities for you to help the GobSquad by buying, selling and making gobs!

### A Prayer from Natalie Marionneaux

*Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by path untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen!*

## ABOUT GROVE AVENUE UMC

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9 am Contemporary Service/Children's  
Sunday School  
9:15 am Adult Sunday School  
10:45 am Traditional Worship

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8 am-1 pm  
Friday: 8 am- Noon

### STAFF

**Pastors:** Carol and John Hickman

**Church and Community Worker:**  
Natalie Marionneaux

**Administrative Assistant:** Jennifer Robertson

**Music Director:** Denise Baldwin

**Custodian:** Jay Adams

**Nursery Director:** Destiny Wallace

**Lay Leader:** Eric Stuver



**EASTER FLOWERS** will grace our sanctuary for the Worship Service on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020. You may order your spring flowers “In Memory” or “In Honor” of a loved one. The florist will select flower colors. In addition, you may wish to make a contribution “In Honor” or “In Memory” of a loved one to the Grove Avenue Church General Fund.

**ORDER FORMS ARE LOCATED  
IN THE BACK OF CHURCH**

Return your order form with payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate. **The deadline for all orders is Sunday, March 22, 2020.** Checks should be made payable to Grove Avenue United Methodist Church (earmarked Flowers or Easter Donation.)

**Please do not combine your weekly offering and your flower money in one check.**

### **CGH CHARGE Easter Services**

**Maundy Thursday**, April 9 - Homestead @ 7 pm  
**Good Friday**, April 10 - Grove @ 7 pm  
**Easter Sunrise**, April 12 - Christ UMC @ 7 am  
**Easter Sunday**, April 12 - each church has its own service.

**Grove Avenue's New Service schedule begins on Easter Sunday @ 10:00 am!**

### **REMINDERS...**

If you have a **prayer request**, please call the church office, the Prayer Chain (John and Veronica James @ 266-6907) or fill out a card found in the church pews.

Please **notify the church** of your family's: address or phone changes, births or deaths, hospital stays, accomplishments, milestones and celebrations.

**You shop. Amazon gives.** Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to Grove Avenue UMC. Set it up at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**Information** to be considered for next month's Messenger should be sent to the church office by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month.



## News

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, the Rev. John R. Wilson, Conference Secretary, Donna Vizza, chair of the WPAUMC Connectional Leadership Table, and Rev. Alyce Weaver-Dunn will hold five informational sessions around the Conference beginning March 22 on the proposed protocol for separation of the denomination. All clergy and laity are welcome to register to attend one of the sessions.

Discussion at the informational meetings will focus on the “Protocol of Separation Through Grace and Reconciliation” because those who signed it represent advocacy groups who proposed other plans, but now unanimously support the protocol. They have agreed to work together for passage of the Protocol at the May 5-15, 2020 General Conference.

There will be an opportunity for questions to provide clarification about the Protocol and how our Conference will respond if it is passed. Our Conference is creating a process for discernment regarding our future together in Christ. The WPA Delegation has been invited to attend to listen and prepare for their participation in the upcoming General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

Although the other plans for restructuring the United Methodist Church will not be part of the discussion at the five Western PA briefings, information on them, along with a comparison chart, is available at the Resource UMC website:

[resourceumc.org/en/content/gc2020-proposed-plans](https://resourceumc.org/en/content/gc2020-proposed-plans)

### **Dates and Locations for Information Sessions**

- Sunday, March 22 @ Saint Mary’s (3-5:30 pm)
- Monday, March 23 @ Saegertown (6:30-9 pm)
- Tuesday, March 24 @ Punxsutawney First (6:30-9 pm)
- Wednesday, March 25 @ Crossroads: Oakdale (6:30-9 pm)
- Thursday, March 26 @ Somerset: Grace (6:30-9 pm)

### **Registration Information**

**On-line**     <https://wpa-reg.brtapp.com/PreGeneralConference2020>

**Call**         our church office @ 539-8684 - Jennifer will sign you up

