

GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MAY 2020

The Messenger

501 Grove Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15902

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www.groveaveumc.com



Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

From the Pastors: Who knows? Maybe we were made for just such a time as this.

Esther 4:14, adapted

My Dear Friends,

With the continued spread of COVID-19, the chaos in the financial markets and the challenges of sheltering in place, we need to proclaim the message of God's hope and love in the face of anxiety and fear. We need to be reminded ~ and to remind others ~ that we are not as helpless as we feel. We need to share the Good News of Jesus Christ more often than ever before. We need to support the ministry of the church for just such a time as this!

Although we are not gathering in the churches, we are still the church. Many of us are worshiping on Facebook and You Tube. (Find us at Carol Hamil Hickman, Wilbur John Hickman or Grove Avenue UMC on Facebook or CGH Charge on You Tube. The Sunday services are live on Facebook at 10 AM and posted to You Tube at the conclusion of the service.) During Holy Week we had nine services with average attendance of about 190. Alleluia! We are being the church for just such a time as this!

We need to maintain our connections with each other and our neighbors. Many of you are checking in with those who live alone or may need some additional help, and you send cards and emails to encourage. We have or will apply for the payroll protection plan to cover the payroll expenses for 8 weeks, which will help to offset the reduced giving. Please prayerfully consider giving your tithes and offerings by mailing your check to the church or by setting up an electronic bill payer at your financial institution. We are being the church for just such a time as this!

I do not want to sound pessimistic, but this situation will not be resolved quickly. We will be stretched as we learn how to be the church in our new world. Today we stand at the threshold. The past is gone, but the future has not yet been fully revealed. We live in challenging times. We remember that we are powerful, resilient people, who through Christ can do all things to which we are called. **We are being called for just such a time as this!**

We are asked to see the world with the compassionate and hope-filled eyes of faith. The story we tell about the past has a big influence of how we see the future. If our narrative is concerned with all that has gone wrong, then we tend to expect the future to be bleak. If we can tell a story of God's grace at work in the past, we wait in joyful hope for more of the same as we step through the threshold into the future (*adapted from How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season by Susan Beaumont*). **We are being called for just such a time as this!**

How can you help? **Pray!** Prayer is one of the most powerful resources we have. Please keep praying for God's provision of faith, healing, and finances for all those impacted by COVID-19, including your church and church family. **Be open!** God's plan will be revealed. We must be patient, willing to adjust and change to meet the evolving new world.

We serve a Risen Savior who is in the world today. We are here to be the church, to proclaim and share the love of Christ. We are here for just such a time as this!

We are praying for you. **May God protect you, bless you and use you at such as time as this! Alleluia!**

Pastors John and Carol

ABOUT GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday: 8 am – 1 pm

Friday: 8 am – Noon

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Adult Sunday School

9:30 Fellowship

10:00 am Worship Service

STAFF

Pastors: Reverends Carol and John Hickman

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Robertson

Music Director: Denise Baldwin

Church / Community Worker: Natalie Marionneaux

Custodian: Jay Adams

Nursery Director: Destiny Wallace

Lay Leader: Eric Stuver

May's Ministers

(depending on the
reopening of church)

SCRIPTURE READERS

10: Bill Brice
17: Georgia Miller
24: Gail Hiner
31: Lois Graham

USHERS & GREETERS

Bob and Sue Birchfield
Volunteers



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 5 – Doris Jones **
- 6 - Mariah Michalides
- 7 – *Happy Anniversary, Ron and Natalie Hudec!*
- 11 – Brenda Mills
- 13 – Joshua Rose
- 14 – Sue Birchfield
- 16 – *Happy Anniversary, John and Donna Bako!*
- 18 – *Happy Anniversary, Dave and Sue Allison!*
- 20 - Bill Hiner **
- 23 – Jack McLaughlin **
- 24 – *Happy 60th Anniversary, Jack and Donna McLaughlin!*
- 26 – Becky Bracken
- 31 – Mason Reffner

** 80 or over

Doris Jones
529 Forest Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15902

William Hiner
175 Crestview Dr.
Davidsville, PA 15928

Jack McLaughlin
202 Melvin St.
Johnstown, PA 15904

*Won't you please remember
these friends with a card?*

MONTHLY NEWS

Due to restrictions regarding the coronavirus, the following precautions have been put in place:

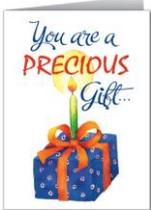
- Church building is closed
- Church services are canceled
- All groups/meetings are canceled
- Staff can continue to work with precautions

Trustees Flea Market is canceled

Please call the church, check our website/Facebook page, or check your email for updated information.

On the Calendar

CGH Charge Service: May 31 @ Homestead at 10 am. We plan to celebrate "Everyone's Birthday!"



Please join us!

Mother's Day 2020

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 are invited to 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 make a donation to the Mission Work Area Fund here at Grove Avenue UMC.

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 Monday, May 4.

Celebrating Mother's Day ~ May 10, 2020

Enclosed is a \$ _____ donation to the General Fund:

in memory of

in honor of

Presented by _____



Some Lockdown Humor for You!

Alice was driving through the parking lot of the mall one crowded Saturday and could not find a parking place. Looking up toward heaven, she said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place, I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up gossiping." Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Alice looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."

Out of the mouths of Sunday School babes: "Moses went up Mt. Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments." "Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol." "David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins." "Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines."

A friend was coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door, as always, to shake hands. She grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside. The Pastor said, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor." Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?" He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."

A man and his wife were having a discussion on who should brew the morning coffee. The husband said, "You're in charge of the cooking around here; you should do it." The wife replied, "No, you should do it. Besides, it's in the Bible that the man should make the coffee." The husband replied, "Yeah, right!" So she showed him in the Bible where it says "HEBREWS."

A couple invited the Pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the child replied. "Goat?" asked the Pastor, "Are you sure about that?" "Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Might as well have the old goat for dinner today as any other day.'"

FINANCIAL REPORT

(as of April 27, 2020)

GOB profit: no report



GENERAL FUND

(year-to-date)

Income: \$37,829.85

Expense: \$40,721.25

(- \$2891.40)

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

April 2020: A – 0

(pandemic
lockdown)

G - \$1855.75

April 2019: A - 75

G - \$1704.25

April 2018: A - 71

G - \$2238.25

GROVE AVENUE REMINDERS

*Your weekly contributions can be made through our website.

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

*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.

***You shop. Amazon gives.**

Amazon will donate .5% of your eligible purchases to Grove Avenue UMC. Set it up at smile.amazon.com

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

Thank you!

A prayer for people who are infected with COVID-19

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them. Amen.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PITTSBURGH EPISCOPAL AREA

CYNTHIA MOORE-KOIKOI
RESIDENT BISHOP

RENEE MIKELL
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

After consulting with the Coordinating Cabinet, Conference Secretary John Wilson and Conference Sessions Chair Alan Morrison, **I have decided to postpone the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference session scheduled for June 11-13, 2020 at Grove City College.** Our celebrations and the business we must care for will be done in different ways and at different times.

While much about the spread of coronavirus is still not known, including whether stay-at-home orders will still be in place in June, we decided to change our plans now. Concern for the health and safety of our Annual Conference members, many of whom are among the most vulnerable populations, was the most important factor in my decision.

Rev. Morrison has made alternate arrangements that will allow us to care for all the necessary business of the Annual Conference at a special Annual Conference session. The **one-day Annual Conference session** will be held on **Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020** at the [Erie Bayfront Convention Center](#). We hope to arrange for blocks of hotel rooms at special rates for voting members who want to stay overnight at their own expense. The **Clergy Session** will be held on **Saturday, June 27, 2020** at [Ingomar United Methodist Church](#).

I have already begun working with the Appointive Cabinet and Rev. Eric Raygor and Rev. David Janz, who co-chair the Board of Ordained Ministry, to care for regional ordination services to be held in the late summer and fall. Appointment changes and retirements will still be effective [July 1](#).

Reports and legislation that will come before the Annual Conference have been posted on the Conference website at www.wpaumc.org/AC. Note in the reports that the 2021 session of the Annual Conference also will be held at the Bayfront Convention Center.

As more decisions are made, additional information will be posted on the wpaumc.org/AC webpage and included in the weekly Conference e-newsletter. (If you don't receive the enews, subscribe at wpaumc.org/subscribe.) A FAQ list also will be developed and posted. Clergy and voting members will be notified when registration opens for the Clergy Session and the one-day Annual Conference session. District Conferences will be rescheduled. Your District Superintendent will send additional information soon.

These are indeed uncertain times. Because of the anxiety some are experiencing over the uncertainty of Annual Conference, I felt it important to make a decision at this time. We will get through this together with God on our side.

Peace and blessings, *Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi*

HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS

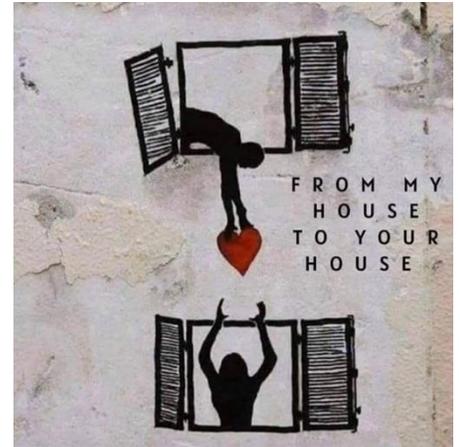
Natalie Marionneaux
(nmarionneaux@umcmission.org and 312-388-8631)

Besides the Youth Summer Feeding Program, Hope-Filled Relationships will strive to start a neighborhood women's group. It was suggested by one of our neighbors. It would meet monthly.

We would offer childcare via the nursery and a youth activity at the same time. The women would define the focus of the group – what they want it to be and look like. We would provide snacks and childcare and youth supervision.

How could you participate? Do you have a special skill or area of interest that you could present something to the women? Or perhaps the youth? Would you like to volunteer in the nursery for 2 hours once a month? We need you and want you to be part of these activities.

Please consider how you can contribute your time and get connected with our neighbors.



HAPPENING NOW – HIGHMARK WALK FOR COMMUNITY

We can do a virtual walk to help raise money for Johnstown District United Methodist Human Services and their Project Shoes. Will you join me?!?! Human Services started after the 1977 flood and has evolved into program touching and supporting many lives throughout the Johnstown area. Donate to disrupt the cycle of poverty and transform lives. Please sign up here:

http://hcf.convio.net/site/TR/LaurelHighlands/HighmarkWalk?px=1121766&pg=personal&fr_id=3009



We appreciate the support we receive for our Project Shoes program and for the sacrifice and generosity of those who help ensure that the under-resourced children and youth throughout our community have the resources needed for healthy bodies as well as healthy minds.

Thank you!

Blessings, Natalie

