

GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JULY 2020

The Messenger

501 Grove Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15902

(814) 539-8684

groveavenueumc501@gmail.com

www.groveaveumc.com



Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

From The Pastors

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

So much has changed in the past few months – old ways of living and being the church are gone. We are accepting that our lives will never return to “normal” and so we are beginning to envision our “new normal.” In the meanwhile, as we wait for the *new* to unfold, we have acquired additional skills (Zoom meetings and worshiping on Facebook), we have had time to focus on spiritual disciplines such as reading, journaling and prayer, and we have come to more fully appreciate our community of faith as we look forward to gathering together.

So much of our recent journey has been inward focused as we adjust and adapt, as we learn how to navigate our changing environment, as we learn how to obtain our basic necessities in new ways. But we can't keep focusing on ourselves - *our* needs, *our* wants and *our* desires. Even as we mourn the loss of what use to be, we must look beyond ourselves and look outward. I found this quote by Episcopal Bishop Steven Charleston:

“Now is the moment for which a lifetime of faith has prepared you. All of those years of prayer and study, all of the worship services, all of the time devoted to a community of faith: it all comes down to this, this sorrowful moment when life seems chaotic and the anarchy of fear haunts the thin borders of reason. Your faith has prepared you for this. It has given you the tools you need to respond: to proclaim justice while standing for peace. Long ago the Spirit called you to commit your life to faith. Now you know why. You are a source of strength for those who have lost hope. You are a voice of calm in the midst of chaos. You are a steady light in days of darkness. The time has come to be what you believe.”

The time has come to be what we believe. The time has come for us to be the church of Jesus Christ in new ways. What do you believe? Does it align with Christ? When people see and interact with us, do they see the face of Christ? What do you believe matters? As we continue to deal with COVID, we can't lose sight of what matters. Here are just a few of the things that I believe matters.

- *Jesus' life, death, and resurrection matters
- *a strong personal and communal relationship with God through Jesus Christ matters
- *love of God and others matters
- *changing of hearts, lives and systems matters
- *all people created in the image of God matters
- *black lives matters
- *LGBTQIA lives matters

May it be so! *Pastors Carol and John*

ABOUT GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME, ALL!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 8 am-1 pm

Friday: 8 am-Noon

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 Adult Sunday School

9:30 Fellowship

10:00 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



AUGUST READERS

- 2 - Lois Graham
- 9 - Georgia Miller
- 16 - Gail Hiner
- 23 - David Graham
- 30 - Heather Brice

AUGUST

USHERS and GREETERS

Kim Fox, Brenda Mills, Bill Zolbe



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

On July 13, the Grove Avenue and Homestead Avenue Councils will Zoom meet to plan for the RE-OPENING of the church building in August. Until we are gathered together as the body of Christ in the church building, please continue to worship via Facebook or YouTube. As our operating costs continue, the church is still in need of your tithes, offerings and service. Please open your hearts to support our church and its ministries!



The following donations to the General Fund were made in June for the glory of God on Father's Day:

IN MEMORY OF

Our fathers, John Boback and Charles Aikey by David and Patricia Aikey
Our Fathers, John J. Bako, Jr. and Clarence W. Tiffany by John and Donna Bako
Luther Birchfield and Harvey Powers by Bob and Sue Birchfield
Mr. Harry D. Ullery, Sr. and Mr. Gerard Charette by Tom Charette
Vernon E. Smith and Raymond H. Robertson by Richard and Sharon Robertson

IN HONOR OF

David, husband and sons-in-law, John and Sam by Patricia Aikey
My husband, John J. Bako by Donna Bako

What do you get when you squeeze an orange? *The answer is, orange juice*

What should you get when you squeeze a Christian? *The answer should be, love.*

Grayson Warren Brown



JULY Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Sheala Stennett
- 4 Ellen Andrews **, Sam Esteban
- 5 *Happy Anniversary, Jesse and Tammy Stuver!*
- 6 Lois Graham
- 7 Happy 80th, Pat Aikey! **
- 8 Georgia Tiffany
- 9 Heather Brice
- 10 Janet Andrews, Rich Robertson
- 11 Gail Hiner **, Richard Wisor *
- 12 Georgia Miller
- 13 Madalyn Brown *,**
Happy 70th, Wanda Wilson!
- 14 Jireh Esteban
- 15 Alayah Siciliano
- 20 Jocelyn Furdella
- 21 Eric Robertson, Jr., Sharon Scaletta
- 23 Donna Gindlesperger
- 24 Joe Baldwin
- 29 Phyllis Pavlick, Josh Sabo

<p>**80 and over</p> <p>Ellen Andrews 710 Ocala Ave. Johnstown, PA 15902</p> <p>Patricia Aikey 108 Violet St. Johnstown, PA 15905</p> <p>Gail Hiner 175 Crestview Dr. Davidsville, PA 15928</p>	<p>*Homebound</p> <p>Richard Wisor 619 Grove Ave. Johnstown, PA 15902</p> <p>Madalyn Brown 1000 Vista Dr. Davidsville, PA 15928</p> <p><i>Won't you please send these friends a card?</i></p>
--	--

On The Calendar in July

CAMP ON THE GO
(scheduled for July 6-10)
has been **CANCELLED**.



We extend condolences to Jim Blough and Kim Fox on the death of Jim's father, James Blough, who passed away on May 29th. Cards may be sent to:

Kim Fox
912 Susquehanna Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

Blough/Robinson Educational Scholarships

- * Scholarships are awarded to members of Grove Avenue UMC who are attending higher education classes regardless of need or income.
- * First-time applicants may pick up an application from the church office or call Jennifer for one to be mailed out.
- * Applications are due in the church office on **Monday, August 31**.
- * A copy of semester grades are to be turned in to the church as soon as they are available.

WALK FOR A HEALTY COMMUNITY
(see Natalie's information below)

GROVE AVENUE UMC FINANCIAL REPORT

(as of June 26, 2020)

GOB profit: *no report*



GENERAL FUND (year-to-date)

Income: \$52,092.67
Expense: \$55,369.03

(- \$3,276.36)

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

June 2020: A- 0 **(church in lockdown)**
G-\$1245.50

June 2019: A- 63
G-\$1492.40

June 2018: A- 43
G-\$1622.75

GROVE AVENUE REMINDERS

- **Prayer requests:** call the church office, the Prayer Chain (John & Veronica James @ 266-6907) or fill out a card found in the church pews.
- Please **notify** the church of your family's: address/phone changes, births or deaths, hospital stays, milestones, accomplishments, 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
- **Next month's Messenger** info due by the 15th of the month.



Providing Relief to those in need

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters - be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left most vulnerable.

UMCOR provides relief all around the world and works in partnership with United Methodists everywhere. There are many ways in which people are able to play a part, and one of those ways is through The Relief Supply Network. This program provides cleaning kit, hygiene kit and school kits for people in need. **Johnstown District Collection Point:** David Kissinger (814-243-3254) Zion Elton, 1089 Mount Airy Drive, Elton, PA

UMCOR is accepting requests for Hygiene Kits for shelters. If you know any shelters in the conference in need of Hygiene Kits, please suggest they fill out the Relief Supply Request [Form](#), or have them contact our Disaster Response Coordinator, David Kissinger at dlkissinger22@gmail.com

Our Mission Continues Last week, we held our first "Conversation with a Missionary" Zoom call with Rev. Stephanie Gottschalk, Director of the Bahamas Methodist Habitat. It was great to hear the amazing work being done in the Bahamas and it also gave us an opportunity to reflect on things we take for granted like constant electricity and water. Often we complain about not having enough and forget to appreciate and thank God or what he has given us. We need to continue to humble ourselves, give thanks to the Almighty and find ways to help others that do not have as we be the hands and feet of Christ.

*For what you have done I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people.
And I will hope in your name, for your name is good. Psalm 52:9*

This is another opportunity for us to support the Bahamas Methodist habitat including but not limited to Director support. Checks can be sent to WPAUMC, 1204 Freedom Road, Cranberry Twp, PA with SGWPAMIS in the memo line. Be sure to follow BMH on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Mission Opportunities within our conference Mission is everywhere; it is local, regional and international. There are many ways in which we can be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. This could be expressed in many ways: Advocacy, fundraising, mowing a neighbor's lawn, making reusable masks and so much more. *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18.*

Abundant Health: Healthy Congregations The Abundant Health Team is requesting pictures and videos regarding ways in which pastors, congregations and communities are staying healthy and/or participating in health ministry during the pandemic. These can be emailed to abundanthealth@wpaumc.org

HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS

Natalie Marionneaux

(nmarionneaux@umcmmission.org and 312-388-8631)

WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY



PLEASE JOIN THE TEAM TO SUPPORT UM HUMAN SERVICES

Hello,

I'm making a difference by being a Team Captain for the 2020 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. I need your help to make the team a success. Are you ready to a stronger community by joining my team? Once you've joined the team, we'll need your help to reach our team fundraising goal. Don't worry - fundraising is easy. The Highmark Walk provides all the tools, including your personal fundraising page. Plus, I'll be here to support and encourage you along the way. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any Walk questions.

Why Walk? This year over 240 health & human service nonprofits from around the state of Pennsylvania and Delaware will take part in the 2020 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. We can change the lives of everyone in these communities by just walking and raising funds for the participating organizations. 100% of the funds raised via this event go directly back to the organizations. Help grow our team; please forward this email to anyone you think will want to walk, raise funds and make a difference in our community. The more the merrier when it comes to our Walk team!

Thank you in advance for your participation. Will you please join my team and help us raise over 1.65 million dollars for our community?

Natalie

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org/whc3/index.shtml>

NATALIE'S PERSONAL WALK PAGE

http://hcf.convio.net/site/TR?px=1121766&pg=personal&fr_id=3009&et=Q59EMpEkX4htm27IQajlmA&s_tafId=18315

TEAM PAGE FOR GROVE AVENUE UMC

http://hcf.convio.net/site/TR?team_id=13304&pg=team&fr_id=3009&et=dfbUqmKYZOmoOJ7dbeFE6Q&s_tafId=18315

