

GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2020

The Messenger

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www.groveaveumc.com



Reaching people with Christ, one person at a time.

BACK
Welcome Pastor Carol
on September 13th!

"All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

Julian of Norwich

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My life is a story, like the story of so many other people's lives, a story of heartache, a story of joy and a story of promise. My story is unique not because of the circumstances, but because of the people and events which have impacted my life and most importantly, because of my personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ who has lifted and sustained me.

Even through my dark days, I feel the presence of God. I hear the words of the psalmist, "Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning." My job is to hang on. Although I cannot see it, God is making a way for me. Morning will come and with it joy.

There are several themes running through my life. The theme of loss – loss of my father through death and the resulting loss of childhood, loss of a pregnancy, loss through divorce, loss of my stepson through suicide and most recently the loss of my beloved husband. Through all these losses, I have received and am receiving spiritual care from so many people –from family, old friends, parishioners and thoughtful strangers. This love and support has changed me forever.

Another theme of my life is of discovery – finding joy in unexpected places, finding love, and finding a deeper relationship with God. But the strongest theme of my life is hope and promise. I know that things will work out. God will give me the strength to hold on and the patience to wait. My life has been saved and changed to allow me to learn to love and to be loved more perfectly.

I thank you, my friends, for journeying with me and loving me. I thank you for the care and affirmation that you gave to John. We love you. I do not know how the future will unfold, but I know that all will be well.

Blessings, Pastor Carol

ABOUT GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 8 am-1 pm

Friday: 8 am-Noon

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00 Worship Service



STAFF

Pastor: Reverend Carol 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

GROVE AVENUE UMC

FINANCIAL REPORT

(as of August 25, 2020)

GOB profit: *no report*



GENERAL FUND

(year-to-date)

Income: \$65,150.01

Expense: \$74,624.78

(- \$9,474.77)

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

August 2020: A- 0
(church in lockdown)
G-\$843.75

August 2019: A- 61
G-\$1539.50

August 2018: A- 59
G-\$1651.75



Thank you to our friends at Grove Avenue for the many lovely 50th Anniversary cards.

We love and appreciate you all!

John & Ruth Anne Hollis

Conference UMW Meeting Going Virtual

The WPAUMC UMW annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24, will be offered in an online webinar format, rather than in person. The keynote address by the Rev. Debra Flint, an ordained deacon and licensed clinical social worker, is entitled "There's Nothing Selfish About Self Care." Registration will open on the Conference website by September 1.



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 *Happy Anniversary, John and Veronica James!*
- 7 Zoey Barret
- 10 Christopher James, Mya Sabo
- 11 Dorothy Lamberson *
- 13 Kailin Weaver
- 14 Donna Bako
- 16 *Happy Anniversary, Dave and Brenda Mills!*
- 17 Zachariah Way
- 17 *Happy Anniversary, Bob and Sue Birchfield!*
- 18 Mary Rowles *,**
- 23 Hannah Mitchell, Jeffrey Kehl, II
- 24 Jan Thierry
- 26 Kenzie Hagens
- 28 Rev. Deb Groeger
- 30 Eileen Stuver, Enio Esteban

***Homebound**

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

****80 and over**

Dorothy Lamberson
105 Pocahontas Dr.
Johnstown, PA 15905

ON THE CALENDAR IN SEPTEMBER

Grove Avenue UMC Council met with the Councils of Christ UMC and Homestead UMC via Zoom on August 25, 2020 to discuss the reopening of our church buildings.

Christ voted to not open.

By a vote of 7 NO, 4 YES, and 1 ABSTENTION, Grove Avenue decided to wait, meeting again in 30 days to review the progress of Covid-19 in our region.

Homestead Avenue voted to open their doors on September 13.

Please continue to watch our on-line services @ 10 am on Sundays and please, remember to send in your offerings!



Thoughts to Consider!

(from the article
"4 Steps That I and Other White People
Can Take To Fight Racism"
by Christina Marie Noel)

- * Do the organizations I work in and with reflect the diversity of my community, at all levels of the organization?
- * Is my organization's culture one that is currently capable of being inclusive to all people?
- * When my organization hires for new roles, do we interview a diverse set of candidates?
- * Do I, as an individual, have a personal network that is diverse?
- * Whenever I host events, do I make sure we have a diverse set of speakers?

"So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

James 2:17 (NRSV)

HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS

Natalie Marionneaux

(nmarionneaux@umcmmission.org and 814-410-5457)

MISSION STATEMENT: Inspiring the hope of Christ & building trusting relationships with the community one person at a time

VISION: A Hope-Filled Community

MOTTO: Moxham Proud

GOALS:

1. Build relationships with church laity-leadership
2. Meeting community partners
3. Being the church without walls: Finding out what would help people be in a connection with Christ (questionnaire), Ministry of presence, Provide basic needs, Group studies, Look for more volunteers, Ecumenical expansion (block party; camp on the go; holiday meal), Building trust (church members, churches, pastors, community, ministry partners)
4. Needs in community: Food and security, Shelter and clothing, Healing from life trauma, Lack of sense of belonging – transient, Disconnect – church and community – trust
5. Provide a holistic ministry – spirituality, economics, health, social, etc...
 - * SPIRITUALITY - 30-minute coffee talks – guided question & discussion, Small home groups – Russell House
 - * ECONOMIC - Bridges out of Poverty during Free Store time, Free Thanksgiving meal and worship, CareerLink assistance, Budgeting counseling – banks
 - * HEALTH - Nutrition experts
 - * SOCIAL - Block party, Concert during Thunder in the Valley, Lemonade stand (summer), hot chocolate (winter), Christmas Caroling



UMC NEWS

Mission around the World: Turning to Wesley's class model amid pandemic

The founder of Methodism died on March 2, 1791, but his teachings remain relevant today amid a global pandemic.

In his ministry, John Wesley established *the concept of class meetings* for fellowship and the development of a disciplined spiritual life. During the weekly classes, small groups discussed how souls were prospering and provided opportunities for counsel and comfort. They also offered an avenue for collecting alms to aid the poor.

Wesley's class concept has become especially relevant during and after lockdowns to stop the spread of the coronavirus as churches in Zimbabwe embrace small sessions to keep church attendance lower and encourage spiritual growth at home.

The Rev. G. K. Machinga, Zimbabwe East Conference board of discipleship chairperson and pastor-in-charge at Cranborne United Methodist Church in the Harare East District, said most United Methodist churches in Zimbabwe have turned to the use of class meetings, often called sections. "Many churches within the Zimbabwe Episcopal Area have rekindled the Wesleyan class meeting type of worship services as the return to in-person worship came to play. The concept has varied advantages applicable now," Machinga said. "In most circuits, including Cranborne, the use of sections is meant to maintain the required number of 50 (worshippers) and it is easy to adhere to the strict health prescribed preventative measures since the figure is small," he added. He said the classes allow for easy contact tracing if a member tests positive for the coronavirus.

The Rev. James Matsungu of Hunyani United Methodist Church in the Marondera District said his circuit has 1,261 members divided into 32 sections. "During the reopening, we divided our congregants into seven services based on sections as a criterion." Church leaders originally allocated 40 minutes for each service but have adjusted that to one hour to avoid overlap between groups and allow time to disinfect. "So far so good," Matsungu said, "Hunyani church is alive and stable."

Rev. Machinga said Wesley also was concerned about the health and wellness of a person. "John Wesley wrote a book titled 'Primitive Physic,' [teaching people to use natural things](#) to treat their ailments, including herbs. He was concerned about health issues and wanted people to worship God while healthy. He treated the soul and the body as one. If he was alive today, he would have encouraged people to take preventative measures during worship, give awareness and be very careful with people not to contract the coronavirus as the churches return to a new normal." Machinga said all congregants wash their hands with soap and water before and after the services. "This method is sustainable for us. We also ensure that there are no handshakes allowed and we give awareness about COVID-19 every time before the service."

The Rev. Munyaradzi Timire, Zimbabwe East Conference education secretary, said lessons also could be learned from Wesley's mother, [Susanna](#), during the pandemic. "She used to teach her children (10 of her 19 children who survived) school work, moral and religion (instruction). She would reserve an hour per day for each child. Today, some parents have adopted that (amid the pandemic)." Timire said permission to start e-learning has not been approved by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in Zimbabwe, but the church is lobbying for distance learning to keep children safe. "Some parents have turned (into) teachers to bridge the gap ... during this COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the same way Susanna Wesley used to do," Timire said.

John Wesley's approach to ministry led to spiritual and numerical growth that is especially important today. He left a legacy, which we must guard jealously. It is our heritage to preserve. His upbringing set him on the path of a lifelong quest for personal spiritual holiness that has created a ripple effect that is felt throughout the world, even today.

Looking for a way to help Grove Avenue UMC during isolation?

FREE LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIAN SCHOOL OFFERED

The UMC's General Commission on Archives and History will offer a free online LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIAN SCHOOL for local church historians or anyone interested in learning to share the story of their church. The school will begin on September 14, 2020.

The curriculum offers a wide range of skills necessary to become a "complete" church historian. Participants' congregations will benefit from a new consciousness of their heritage and legacy and be encouraged to study and proclaim their unique stories. Each week participants will be emailed materials and assignments to be completed at their own pace.

To register, go to www.GCAH.org or find them on Facebook.



Apportionment Dollars at Work

Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do. There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11

Often we wonder whether we are doing enough, or whether our donations are being used for good. The Bible tells us to give whole-heartedly and not to let our left hand know what the right hand is doing. But as humans it warms our heart to see the impact we are making in people's lives, and it encourages us to do more. One of the ways we have seen the church at work during the Covid-19 Pandemic has been through the work of our [Conference Poverty Team](#). Our poverty team assists churches or groups in developing or expanding ministry with those living in poverty. This is important as Ministry with the Poor is one of our areas of focus as the United Methodist Church.

The recent pandemic has created major problems for ministries with increasing demands and fewer resources available. To add a little support to our United Methodists meeting significant needs for families in their communities, the Poverty Team made some additional grants. Agencies we have helped include:

* [JOHNSTOWN UNITED METHODIST HUMAN SERVICES](#) which has graduated almost 100 with 16 more in cohorts presently. The pandemic has created a greater need for Supportive Assistance. These supports provide emergency financial aid which helps them in their journey out of poverty with such things as shut-off notices, education and employment goals, child-care needs, vehicle repairs, and the like. Setbacks and challenges are unavoidable as individuals who are working to change their economic circumstances hit barriers that threaten to throw them off their path. In this unprecedented crisis, setbacks are particularly hard on those who are already under-resourced.

[HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS](#) of Grove Avenue UMC in Johnstown received some assistance to help people pay their bills. They developed an application and selection process to assist with this.

Overall, \$8,000 in grants have been awarded. As the year continues, The Poverty Team hopes to assist additional ministries who are responding to the urgent needs of the disenfranchised during the pandemic.



A

NOTE

FROM

DENISE!



Dear Church Family,

It was quite a surprise to receive a lovely card and monetary gift last week as a token of appreciation for the music I have been preparing for our online services. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart! The timing could not have been better. I have been fighting with aging equipment and technology which I'm learning in an attempt to replace lost income from performing and teaching voice lessons. I am hopeful to move things online during these times. Your gift will help tremendously.

I wanted to mention a few things. First, the copyright laws dictate which prerecorded accompaniment tracks we are permitted to use online. Karen is doing a great job seeking them out, but we cannot change the key. That's why sometimes we have to sing a little too high or too low! It is legal for me to play the accompaniment myself, and sometimes the sheet music is not available. Since I don't play keyboard often (or well!), I'm very limited unless the chord changes don't move too quickly. My synthesizer has lots of sounds so I try to add some different sounds into the music besides just guitar to change it up for you.

This has been a challenging time for everyone who is attempting to take things online - from church services, to shopping, to college courses, to business meetings, to yoga classes. All of those people are grateful for your patience and understanding while lives are turned upside down.

Thank you and God bless!

Denise

The Church's Mission in the World

Want to Learn more?

This online course offers a space for global mission dialogues. In this significant transition period in history, the church is called to rethink its mission of being the people of God called for the transformation of the world. Affirming the biblical tradition that forming a model community of mutuality and friendship in faith is an essential act of mission, the course takes a virtual mission journey with diverse mission scholars and practitioners who are serving around the world. By doing so, the course invites participants to participate in God's mission contextually.

Course will be offered via Zoom on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00pm
September 8- November 10
Cost to participate: \$75
Register: <https://bit.ly/churchmission1>

The Courses in the Community program offers in-depth learning opportunities led by Candler faculty and hosted at congregations in and beyond Atlanta.



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For more information, email candlerfoundry@emory.edu

candlerfoundry.emory.edu

Course Instructor



Rev. Jay Choi is a missionary in residence (MIR) both with the Global Ministries of The United Methodist church and Candler School of Theology, in Atlanta, Georgia. The role of MIR is to be a liaison between Global Ministries, its missionaries around the world, and Candler. Before coming to Atlanta, he served in the Philippines for 18 years at Union Theological Seminary, Philippines.



Guest Lecturers

Jay Choi

Name	Topic	Date
David Scott	What is Mission? Essential Biblical Understandings of Mission	September 8
Jooseop Keum	How to read Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes (TTL)?	September 15
Jerome Sahabandhu	Mission in Religiously Plural Asia	September 22
Helmut Renders	Mission, Liberation, and Pentecostal Spirituality in the Latin American Context, a Missionary Perspective	September 29
Pumla Nzimande	Christian Mission in Post-colonial and Post-apartheid Africa	October 6
Simon Benjamin	The Future of Christian Mission 1: WCC and its Mission in the 21st Century	October 13
Hunter Farrell	The Future of Christian Mission 2: PCUSA Perspective	October 20
Thomas Kemper	The Future of Christian Mission 3: Methodist Perspective	October 27
Donald McCrabb	The Future of Christian Mission 4: Catholic Perspective	November 3
Harriet Olson	The Future of Christian Mission 5: Women's Perspective	November 10



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