

GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 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.

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him. – Colossians 3:17*

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November has always been one of my favorite times of the year. The nights are getting colder, the days are getting shorter. It starts with All Saints Sunday, as we remember those who have gone to the church triumphant and ends with the first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare for the coming of Christ and the beginning of the liturgical year. At Thanksgiving, we consciously reflect on our many blessings both spiritual and material that we have received from God and on God's abundant love.

This year has been a hard year--a year of social isolation, economic hardships, losses, fear and massive unanticipated changes. Instead of living aware of God's abundance, we get been sucked into a scarcity mentality promoted by the news, social media, and commercials. We have become painfully aware of what we don't have....what we have lost....and so we cling to what we have. That is not the life that Jesus comes to give us. Walking with Jesus--living lives abundantly--involves living lives of GRATITUDE. In the book One Thousand Gifts, Ann Voskamp asks the question "How do we find joy in the midst of deadlines, debt, drama, and daily duties? What does a life of gratitude look like when your days are gritty, long, and sometimes dark?" I would add "What does a life of gratitude look like in the midst of a pandemic?" Voskamp shares her practice of gratitude--waking up each day with an awareness of God's blessings. In giving thanks for the life she already had, she found the life she'd always wanted. And so, for the month of November, I invite you to *practice gratitude* by the following:

* Keep a gratitude list each day. Write down 2-3 things you are grateful for even in the midst of the challenges of the pandemic, the political climate and the lack of civility in our country. I invite you to be intentional about giving thanks, not in quick and abstract ways but in a way that names and engages the particularities of the abundance God has given you. (example: Instead of giving thanks for family – give thanks by naming each individual member of your family.)

* Pray about your giving. Consider the many blessings you have and how you can thank God by faithfully participating in the ministry of this church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. Prayerfully contemplate increasing your giving by 1% of your income. Be open to actively serving on ministry teams. Share your faith and the love of Christ with others. Invite people to church.

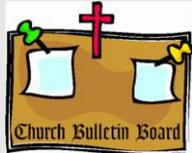
* When someone asks you, "How are you?" instead of responding with an automatic "I am fine," respond with "I'm grateful or I'm blessed." Take a moment to make a personal connection and ask others, "What are you especially grateful for?"

We know times are tough, and things will not improve quickly. But we also know that God has provided and will provide for all our needs. I look forward to the end of COVID restrictions, knowing that it will be months. I am excited about discovering innovative ways of being the church as the new "normal" is unfolded. May God nourish you for the journey and keep you safe. You are loved!

Blessings! Pastor Carol

ABOUT GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME!
Reverend Carol Hickman, Pastor



OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 8 am-1 pm

Friday: 8 am-Noon

CGH Charge SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 Facebook Service

9:45 Grove Avenue UMC Worship

11:00 Homestead Avenue UMC Worship

STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Robertson

Community Minister, Hope-filled Relationships:

Deacon Natalie Marionneaux

Custodian: Jay Adams

Keyboardist: Harriet Miller

Lay Leader: Eric Stuver

Music Director: Denise Baldwin

Nursery Director: Destiny Wallace

GROVE AVENUE UMC FINANCIAL REPORT

(as of October 26, 2020)

GOB profit: *no report*



GENERAL FUND (year-to-date)

Income: \$79,587.71

Expense: \$90,387.12

(- \$10,799.41)

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

October 2020: **(church in partial lockdown)**

A- 26

G- \$ 1528.50

October 2019: A- 57

G-\$ 1580.25

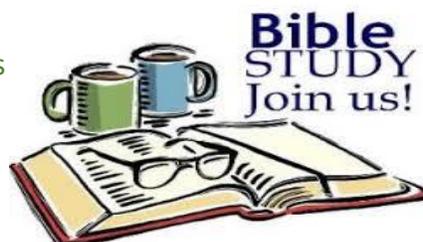
October 2018: A- 61

G-\$ 1761.25

I will be offering a three-week Bible Study of the Book of Ruth. The study will begin on Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Chapter One is the focus for week one. I hope you will join me for this journey with Ruth. Embrace Grace, Pastor Deb

Harbor of Hope: Conference Evangelists John and Christine Zimmerman will offer a Zoom training session on their new Harbor of Hope Bible Study from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12. The study can be used by any church to provide a safe gathering for all people, including those with addiction, to explore the writings of the Holy Bible and pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ. Learn more and see video at:

af180.org/harbor-of-hope





NOVEMBER

- 2 Beth Aikey
- 4 Georgia Kerrick
- 7 Darlene Costlow
- 15 *Remembering Pastor John Hickman on his day of birth!*
- 16 Pablo Escontrias
- 19 Happy 30th, Jill Michalides!
- 21 Happy 90th, Dick Hughes! **
- 22 Heather Escontrias
- 24 Vivian Young **
- 27 Bonnie Laidig
- 27 Roger Felix
- 28 Susan Mayer

Would you care to send a greeting to these friends who are
****80 and over ?**

Dick Hughes
511 Constable Ave.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Vivian Young
555 Tire Hill Rd.
Johnstown, PA 15905



On the Calendar in NOVEMBER

ALL MONTH

Sharing our Abundance

Keith Baldwin's fundraiser for our Free Store is still active. You can share your blessings by donating at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-free-store>



2020 CHARGE CONFERENCE

Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 PM at Grove Avenue.

Pastor Sung will lead the Conference. Masks are required and we will be socially distancing. Because of COVID we will not have a fellowship time following the Conference.

BLACK FRIDAY

November 27, 2020

Concerned about Christmas shopping in person on Black Friday? Be safe at home while getting your gifts on Amazon! GAUMC will receive a percentage of your total bill (on eligible purchases) when you sign up for



Holiday Advice from The Conference Abundant Health Team



Thanksgiving is a time when many families travel long distances to celebrate together. Travel increases the chance of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. If you must travel, be informed of the risks involved.

Lower risk activities

- * Having a small dinner with only people who live in your household
- * Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors, especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact with others
- * Having a virtual dinner and sharing recipes with friends and family
- * Shopping online rather than in person on the day after Thanksgiving or the next Monday
- * Watching sports events, parades, and movies from home

Moderate risk activities

- * Having a small outdoor dinner with family and friends who live in your community
- * Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on hosting gatherings or cook-outs.
- * Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- * Attending a small outdoor sports events with safety precautions in place

Higher risk activities: Avoid these higher risk activities to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19:

- * Going shopping in crowded stores just before, on, or after Thanksgiving
- * Participating or being a spectator at a crowded race
- * Attending crowded parades
- * Using alcohol or drugs, which can cloud judgement and increase risky behaviors
- * Attending large indoor gatherings with people from outside of your household



Missionaries Return to Western PA

Global Ministries Missionary Lourdes (Lulu) Ramirez and her husband, Rich Mroccka, a missionary from our conference, are currently back in Western PA until the end of November. Rich and Lulu both serve in Guatemala in partnership with one of our global partners, *Encounter with Christ for Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Mrocckas are **coming to the CGH Charge on November 8th** to talk about their ministries. WPAMissions will be *hosting a Virtual Mission Event with them soon*.

Three P's in Mission:

The Players,
The Payers and
The Prayers.

Lord, Lord, Open Unto Me!



Open unto me—light for my darkness.
Open unto me—courage for my fear.
Open unto me—hope for my despair.
Open unto me—peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me—joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me—strength for my weakness.
Open unto me—wisdom for my confusion.
Open unto me—forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me—tenderness for my toughness.
Open unto me—love for my hates.
Open unto me—Thy Self for my self.
Lord, Lord, open unto me!
(Meditations of the Heart by Howard Thurman)

HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS

Natalie Marionneaux
Deacon, United Methodist Church
Community Minister, Hope-filled Relationships

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



Moxham Proud: A Reflection

Moxham is a place that might appear to have a scarcity problem, but what rather if it really is an opportunity to reveal God's abundance? And that abundance lives and thrives in the cracks of those who live here and show up every day in a life and in a world that tells them they are not enough.

Is it divine nature that doesn't let a person give up, even though it may appear so? They have not laid down to die... "there is a light in the dark and the darkness cannot extinguish it."

Perhaps we are like the story when Jesus fed the multitudes – when there appeared there was not enough. We are called to bear witness to the goodness of God – "YES AND!" And it is present here and now – we are called and invited to see the world as God does. Do we see our sisters and brothers, the light within them, their call and purpose as part of OUR story. We would be less without our neighbors. How do we see "them?"

Light and love is not meant to be contained within church walls. Let us build community here and together. It is now time to extend our hands in invitation to know the brothers and sisters who live across the street and around the corner. Can we walk together, come to know and understand each other, share our dreams for what life can be like as we work to build the kingdom together, hand-in-hand, with each other, in community, in Moxham, in Johnstown?

God is offering us something new – do you know your neighbor?

Blessings, Natalie

