

GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 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.



My dear friends,

I have spent time in the last two months cleaning out my home, sorting through things that we acquired over the years. Since I was not working and couldn't travel, it seemed like a good idea. I went through the shed, the garage, the room that was John's office and became his bedroom, and finally I tackled the attic. Some items were instantly thrown away; others were set aside for further evaluation. Now the bed in my home office/guest room is piled high with remnants of our life. As I sorted, I remembered and savored the fond memories. I am giving items to each kid and grandkid with the hope that they will cherish them. This process of passing on a legacy makes me happy. At the same time, I am grieving my loss.

During this time, all of us have much to grieve. We read about our mental health and how to care of ourselves, but not much is written about grieving, which is essential to our mental and spiritual health. Every time there is a change, we lose something, and we gain something. We look forward to what we will gain, and yet we need to grieve the loss. Not every loss is big, but every loss needs to be grieved. My heart goes out to everyone who has suffered a loss – death of a loved one, death of a pastor, loss of income, loss of social interaction, declining health, etc.

There are other things we have lost. We can no longer get together without thinking about how to socially distance and what risk we are taking. We can't go to our favorite restaurant or go to a movie theater. We can't plan trips or take a normal trip to a store.

Finding ways to celebrate our gains and grieve our losses are difficult in this time of socially distancing and not gathering in community. Our isolation makes finding our new normal more difficult. Before our grief can be healed, we must recognize our loss and go through the grieving process. Sharing our grief with friends by telling the story of our loss can begin the healing process. Shedding tears and finding those things that nurture us also facilitate healing. All this should be covered with prayer. In these unusual times we need to take care of ourselves by naming our losses and grieving those losses. Remember,

"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

All shall be well – God will see to that. Until then – hang on!

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

9:00 am Facebook Service
10:00 am Worship in Church

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

Ask A Question



Do you have a question about The United Methodist Church?

This is the place to get answers:

Ask The UMC,
a ministry of United Methodist Communications,
will answer your question or direct you to an appropriate contact. Submit your queries via email to asktheumc@umc.org

THANK YOU!

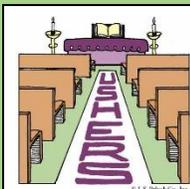
Grove Avenue UMC thanks
The Televising Trio,
Pastor Deb, Karen Allshouse, and
Denise Baldwin,
for bring us on-line services
during Pastor Carol's leave of absence.



I wanted to thank my Grove Avenue family for thinking of me on my 89th birthday. All the cards were greatly appreciated!

Dorothy Lamberson

OCTOBER MINISTERS



11,
18, Kim Fox, Brenda Mills,
25 and Eileen Stuver



11, Lois Graham
25
18 Volunteer

GROVE AVENUE REMINDERS

- If you have a **prayer request**, please call the church office 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
- Info to be considered for **next month's Messenger** should be sent by the 20th of the month to
 - the church office **or**
 - Lois Graham (lagraham@atlanticbb.net)



Birthdays

- 2 Jesse Stuver
- 7 Dave Mills
- 10 Keith Mayer
- 18 Laura Brosig
- 23 Bob Birchfield **
- 27 Tammy Stuver
- 30 Alivia Tucker
- 31 Dave Aikey **
- 31 Jordan Michalides



Would you care to send a greeting?

****80 and over**

Bob Birchfield
1921 Brenlin St.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Dave Aikey
108 Violet St.
Johnstown, PA 15905

*We have no ANNIVERSARIES
to celebrate this month!*

On the Calendar in October

October 5 CGH Charge PPRC
ZOOM Meeting @ 6:30 pm

October 11 Grove Avenue UMC reopens

October – November

Volunteers Needed: dinner, youth activities, child care

WHAT: Moxham Womens Group and Youth Group and Child Care

WHEN: Mondays, 5:30-7:00 pm

WHO: Call Natalie @

(814) 410-5457

October 14-15 FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" will be held October 14-15 from 9:00 am-9:00 pm. Due to Covid-19 there will be some changes from the previous years: no shopping pass to purchase. You will get 20% off the lowest ticket prices.

When purchasing your items, *you have to let the salesclerk know you want to support Grove Avenue United Methodist Church.* We will get 5% off your total purchase.

Please ask your friends and family to support Grove Avenue UMC. *Happy Shopping!*





One of the first things Pastors John and Carol did when they arrived in July 2019 was to visit the Free Store. It was a busy day, and it was quite evident that what was happening in our fellowship room had a tremendous impact on them. As the weeks passed, both pastors became regulars at the store. There was lots of mingling, talking, praying, and laughing. John made the effort to be there every week. He always walked in with a big smile on his face—even the times you could tell he wasn't feeling up to par. Sometimes he would just sit in a chair and people came up to talk with him. He freely explained his "head gear" when it was time for that treatment. The kids sat on his lap and he played with them. John loved the folks of the Moxham Free Store, and they loved him. As time passed there were days when John either had an appointment or just wasn't feeling up to coming to the store. Carol shared his disappointment with all of us. People stopped and asked where Pastor John was or how Pastor John was doing. In a short time, he understood and cherished the ministry that occurred on Thursday afternoons at Grove Avenue. We were doing God's work.

Because of his love for the store, John and Carol had asked that donations be directed to the Free Store in **Pastor John's memory**. People have been wonderful. To date, we have received over \$3000 in donations! The church he last served, Shanksville UMC, sent us a check for \$1000. When it becomes possible, we plan on visiting them for a personal Thank You - as well as sharing pictures of the store and talking about what we do. Pastor Carol's former charge sent us \$600, Christ UMC sent \$100, and several members of GAUMC have sent checks - as well as many other people. So, yes, the Free Store was blessed – blessed to have Pastor John join the ministry of the store and minister to the children and adults of our community. He helped to show people that they are loved by God.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the Free Store has not been able to reopen. It's not just the physical requirements regarding reopening, but it's also the availability of supplies that hinder our plans. We are investigating how to at least get diapers for the kids and maybe developing a process of issuing gift cards to folks who are in dire need of supplies. As we move forward, we will be keeping everyone informed.

And The Free Store Continues To Be Blessed!

Two very generous individuals have recently added to the Free Store's Godsend. **Keith Baldwin**, for an assignment in school, had to make a **GoFundMe** page. He chose GAUMC in order to support our FREE STORE to aid the Moxham community. He wrote: *THE FREE STORE at Grove Ave UMC started July 2018, born out of a desire to connect with the Moxham neighborhood since most Grove members no longer live in the neighborhood. The store provides free clothing for the taking and each household receives up to 3 household items that cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits. Items handed out weekly include toilet paper, diapers, shampoo, soap, deodorant, laundry soap, dish soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, bleach, garbage bags, house cleaning liquid and more of whatever we may have on hand. We serve about 50 families every week and weekly supplies cost at least \$250. The store is completely funded through personal donation and receives no funding from the church. If you are able to contribute just a few dollars, it would help make a huge impact within the Moxham community.* To date, Keith's project has raised \$245.00!

Pastor Deb Groeger established a **BirthDay Fundraiser** on Facebook to benefit the Free Store. Donations can be made to celebrate Deb's September 28th birthday!

Thank you, Keith and Pastor Deb, for your thoughtfulness!

**GROVE AVENUE UMC
FINANCIAL REPORT**

(as of September 28, 2020)

GOB profit: *no report*



GENERAL FUND
(year-to-date)

Income: \$ 65,150.01
Expense: \$ 74,624.78

(- \$9,474.77)

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

September 2020:	A- 0 (church in lockdown) G-\$ 843.75
September 2019:	A- 61 G-\$ 1539.50
September 2018:	A- 59 G-\$ 1651.75



Western PA Conference United Methodist Women
Virtual Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 24, 2020, 9:30-11 am
Zoom Webinar Hosted by Linda Thayer, President

Keynote Presentation

There's Nothing Selfish about Self Care
Rev. Debra Flint, LCSW, The Quiet Retreat Center

Worship and Memorial Service

Soul Care is Essential
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Renee Mikell

Virtual Workshop Sessions

12 pm: *Trauma and the Brain*, Rev. Debra Flint
1 pm: *The Future of United Methodist Women in Western PA*
Linda Thayer

Register at www.wpaumc.org/UMWomen

You'll also find *Caring for Others* videos and resources there.

Although we looked forward to gathering in person in October, for the safety of all, the Conference UMW board made the difficult decision to move to a virtual format. We hope you will join us either individually or with a small group for this inspiring day! We look forward to seeing you in person at future United Methodist Women events.

How can we be more Christlike — in word and deed — during the **2020 U.S. ELECTION**? We know a few things for sure: we're called to love others (John 15:12), we're called to pray for our leaders (Timothy 2:1-2), and we're called to live in unity (Ephesians 4:3). In an election year, choosing love feels extra challenging when your environment often pushes you to pick one side and shun the other. How can we keep choosing to love rather than burying our heads under our pillows until Nov. 4?

God sees our frustration and confusion. He promises that when we pray, he'll give us guidance and peace:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

It seems too simple. And sometimes our voices feel too small. But when we pray, we allow God to start growing our capacity to love each other as Jesus does — even people who are the most different from us. As we approach the 2020 election, our bold decision to kneel at God's throne when we're being pulled to one side or the other allows God to change our hearts — and the hearts of people we pray for. Let us join us in praying for our country and its leaders, asking God to help us all see each other with His love:

1. Pray for candidates to seek God's guidance.
2. Pray that candidates would have listening ears and soft hearts.
3. Pray for candidates to address poverty and justice issues.
4. Pray for strength and encouragement for our leaders and election candidates.
5. Pray that our leaders would commit to working together (and that we would too).
6. Pray that we would see each other through Jesus' eyes.

HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS

Natalie Marionneaux

nmarionneaux@umcmmission.org

814-410-5457



Volunteer Opportunity in Johnstown

Hope Filled Relationships in conjunction with Moxham Mom's Group with Youth Activity and Childcare

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? We need you. Moxham needs you.

Dates needed: **October 5, 12, 19, 25 and November 1, 9, 16, 23 and 30** – whenever you are available is fine (one week or nine weeks!) from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- * Meal preparation and clean up (5-6:15 pm)
- * Assist in supervising mom's group – topics to include finance, parenting, health (physical, mental & spiritual)
- * Be a presence and support for the women. If you would like to lead a topic or have ideas for topics, please call Natalie to discuss.
- * Assist in youth activity – will usually be an art activity where youth will need supervision and guidance. Would you like to lead? Have ideas for activities?
- * Assist in childcare (up to age 4) – keep a watchful eye on the children as they play.

NOTE: Youth and childcare will require clearances which all UMC churches follow.
We will help with those requirements.

If you are unable to be with us in person, there are other ways to participate:

- * Donate a meal one week (prepare it or donate cost of meal \$25+)
- * Match saving account funds up to \$100 for those who open savings accounts (we will verify accounts and deposit directly)
- * Donate art supplies one week (\$20/week)
- * Donate to sponsor paid supervision for youth and childcare (\$50/week)
- * Donate a turkey for Thanksgiving week – “Make a Meal” meeting

THANK YOU!

Louisiana Churches Hit by Hurricane Laura



Two views show extensive damage to University United Methodist Church in Lake Charles, LA. Southwestern Louisiana has widespread destruction from Hurricane Laura, which made landfall Aug. 27 with winds of up to 150 miles per hour.

Photos by Jerry Jackson, courtesy of the Rev. Angela Cooley Bulhof, University United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Angela Cooley Bulhof evacuated with her family to Houston ahead of Hurricane Laura, but word reached her quickly that her church, University United Methodist in Lake Charles, Louisiana, took a big hit from the powerful storm. “One entire wall that faces the street basically collapsed,” said the pastor, who just began her appointment at the church on July 1. “There are chunks of roof on all the buildings that were completely torn off.”

The Rev. Andy Goff leads Welsh Memorial United Methodist Church in Vinton, Louisiana, and Maplewood United Methodist in Sulphur, Louisiana, and both were damaged by the hurricane. Two of the three buildings at Maplewood have what appear to be minor problems, but the fellowship hall, which includes the church offices, fared badly. “The walls are down,” said Goff, whose parsonage came through OK. “It could have been a (hurricane-related) tornado, or just the winds from Laura.”

The Rev. Mel Yorks leads three United Methodist churches in southwest Louisiana. He was relieved to see photos showing that one of them, Wakefield United Methodist Church in Cameron, was surrounded by water but still standing.

Louisiana Conference Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey expressed gratitude that the hurricane caused less storm surge-related flood damage than had been feared. “But the wind was not our friend,” she said.

Bulhof promised that Hurricane Laura’s property damage would not alter University United Methodist Church’s mission to love its neighbors, including special care for the vulnerable. The hurricane will present new opportunities for extending that mission, she said. “Amazing how God builds on your experiences to increase your potential for ministry wherever you find yourself.”

HOW TO HELP: Give to the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s U.S. Disaster Response and Recovery through [Advance #901670](#). The Louisiana Conference is requesting donations for its [disaster response ministry](#).

The Church has a long history of helping bring abundant health to our communities. While the world struggles with major public health crises like COVID-19 and racism, we as Christians can offer hope and health for all God's people. Together, we can build relationships with our communities across race and class, and improve the social determinants of health so that all of God's people can have abundant life.

Please take a moment to view our conference promotional video: <https://vimeo.com/440994789>

The conference website and registration can be found here: <https://www.4allpeople.org/AllPeopleConference>

Two ways to participate:

1. Attend online (as an individual, or as a group).
2. Attend in-person at a regional host site.

Online Affinity Groups

All attendees will participate in "affinity group" break-out sessions to discuss conference content through the lens of bringing Abundant Health in the midst of the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism. Annual conferences, districts, or local churches may choose to form their own affinity groups to digitally attend and discuss the conference together. Regional Host Sites will serve as their own affinity groups (see below). Those registering as individuals online will choose one of several pre-identified affinity groups, or collaborate with the All People Conference to form their own affinity group prior to the start of the conference.

What's a Regional Host Site?

* Annual conferences, districts, or local churches may also choose to gather a small group of its key leaders to attend the conference together (in compliance with local COVID-19 guidelines). This will serve as an opportunity to engage in further conversation and reflection, within your own local context and with specific attention to the goals of your community. Church for All People itself will serve as one such host site for those who wish to attend the conference in person in Columbus, OH.

* Regional attendees will register as individuals, but will view the conference in-person together at the host site. Regional sites may choose to watch the same workshops sessions together, or allow each individual to attend the workshops of their choosing using personal digital devices while on site. Regional host sites may choose to charge an additional fee to cover costs of on-site food or supplies.

Registration:

In-Person Attendance at Church for All People: \$225.00

(\$250.00 Late Registration after October 1)

Virtual Attendance/Regional Attendance: \$125.00

For More Information:

Mike Premo

mpremo@4allpeople.net

614-445-7342, ext. 29

Continued on next page



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

Saturday, October 24

Pre-Conference Activities:

*12:00 Registration and Check-In (Lunch on your own)**

*12:00-2:00pm Community Tours**

1:00-2:00pm Technology Assistance Available

2:00-2:30pm Welcome and Opening Videos

2:30-3:20pm Plenary 1: **Offering Abundant Health for All**, UM Church for All People

Break

3:30-4:30pm Workshops (Session #1)

4:30-5:15pm Affinity Group Break-Outs

Break

5:30-6:30pm Plenary 2, TBA

*6:30-7:30pm Dinner**

Sunday, October 25

*10:15am Arrival and Community Breakfast at C4AP**

11:00am-12:00pm Sunday Worship

Break (*Lunch on your own*)

1:00-2:00pm Plenary 3, TBA

Break

2:15- 3:15pm Workshops (Session #2)

Break

3:30-4:30pm Plenary 4: **Dr. Kelly Kelleher**, Nationwide Children's Hospital

4:30-5:30pm Affinity Group Break-Outs

*5:30-7:00pm Dinner & Celebration**

Monday, October 26

Breakfast on your own

9:00-9:15am Opening Worship and Videos

9:15-10:15am Plenary 5: **Dr. David Scott**, General Board of Global Ministries

Break

10:30-11:30am Workshops (Session #3)

11:30am-12:15pm Affinity Group Break-Outs

Break

12:30-1:30 Plenary 5: **Bishop Gregory Palmer**, West Ohio Conference; Sending Forth

*1:30pm Lunch at C4AP**

** Activities in italics are for in-person attendees only*

Featured Workshops:

Asset Based Ministry In The Time of Pandemic
Housing as a Social Determinant of Health
Educating Young Scholars in an Era of COVID-19
Building Racially Equitable Communities
Advocating for Abundant Health for All
Incarceration Ministry in the Midst of COVID-19
Building Diverse Relationships Through The Free Store



End Time

An essay by Reverend Chris Andrews

An interviewer asked me recently, “Are we living in the end time?” His question was framed by the most unusual moments of present history. Topping the list is the pandemic followed closely by natural disasters of a monster hurricane and wild fires in the West, not to mention the strange weather pattern that moves the temperature 60 degrees in a few hours and dumps snow on areas that the day before were still in a summer mode. Politics aside, there is enough upheaval to unsettle the calmest of people.

Throughout history, humankind has tried to predict what would happen next. And when that proved impossible, some of our tribe began to make up what they imagined would happen. And this is where most eschatological or end time thinking rises from. Someone pops up and says, “I know what’s going on. I know where we are headed. I have the road map.” Think of the Book of Revelation at the end of the Bible with all its strange imagery and visions. Truth be told, no one has a crystal ball that allows us to see what the future holds, even though there will always be people who claim to be able to do that.

So, what does it mean to be a person of faith in upsetting and turbulent times? Here are a few of my thoughts that I hope will be helpful. Most of the time these ideas help me get to the next moment, even though I confess that there are times when I wonder if the world has fallen so far into the proverbial ditch that nothing will be able to pull us back on to a road of possibility and progress. Here are some faithful actions and attitudes for unsettled times:

- **Have a sense of history.** Disruption and unsettledness are nothing new for humans. It has been going on forever and will likely continue to happen. Short of nuclear war we have survived in the past and will survive this present time.
- **Remember that where you stand determines what you see.** Stand on hope and not despair and you will see the world differently. Hope that a vaccine will be produced sooner than later; hope that the human community will come together in a common effort to repair damage done to the earth and reverse global warming; hope that the inequities of economics, both in the United States and across the world, will be addressed to assure every man, woman, and child a decent and secure level of life; hope that we can learn to embrace diversity. Everyone has a place at the table of the human family. Hope like this pushes the world in the right direction. Despair drains the energy of possibility; hope infuses moments with possibilities.
- **Trust that love and compassion work** and that when enough of us make these qualities the guiding principles for life, we will build a new world. The labor of love and compassion is hard. It takes courage and creativity to bring them to life in the push and pull of daily living, of running businesses, of managing relations between nations. But these are the most important and vital guiding principles to live by and we must resolve to do just that; every one of us, from world leaders to ordinary human beings.
- **Speak less and do more.** Be the good difference in your neighborhood. Reach out to the stranger, do what you can where you are to care for the earth, share with others from your blessings.
- **Give thoughtful and prayerful attention to the care of your soul.** Turn off the news now and then and take a walk outside and notice the beauty of the natural world. Realize that you are part of that beauty. God is love and in that love, we move and have our being, as Saint Paul said. With every breath be mindful of the fact that we are held in a love that will never let us go and always, always, sees us through to the other side.
- **Love life and work for its enhancement for all.** There is enough food, money, and resources for all to live a good and decent life if we will learn to share with one another.
- **No one knows the future, but we do know who holds the future.**

These are just some simple thoughts from an old preacher. I hope they provide guidance and help for the living of these days. God bless all!

Email: jubileepioneers@gmail.com

