

The Messenger

January 2021



GROVE AVENUE UNITEDMETHODIST CHURCH

501 Grove Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15902

(814) 539-8684

groveavenueumc501@gmail.com

www.groveaveumc.com

The Pastor's Desk

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

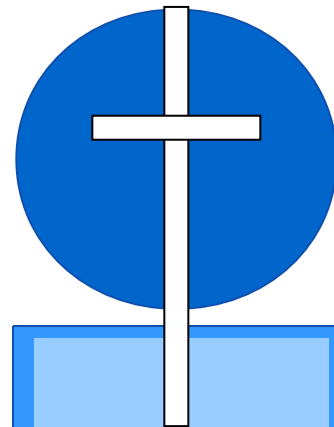
2020 has been a challenging year for us - as individuals, as a church, as a community and as a nation. We have undergone (and are still going through) major transitions. 2020 has been a disruptive year to say the least. Many of us are ready to flip the calendar hoping that 2021 will be better.

As we enter the new year, I ask for your continuing support for the churches. I pray for all of us to be healthier spiritually, emotionally, and physically so that churches of the Charge become stronger and will fulfill God's call.

Many people set new goals and resolutions as a new year begins, knowing that they will be broken or abandoned within the first few weeks. What if we expanded our resolutions to include getting into shape spiritually? What if we make our spiritual life a priority—exercise hospitality every day, immerse ourselves in reading and studying scripture, be intentional about new ways of serving both as individuals and as a community, block off time to pray for one another. In addition, share uplifting words with someone every day, give thanks to those we journey with, forgive others and ourselves. Actively participate in the church and Charge through attendance at worship (even if it is via internet or phone) and its ministries. These practices will not only help each of us grow in our relationship with God, but they will transform our church.

May we all enter this New Year with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for our blessings, which we often take for granted. Grateful for each other, for health, warmth, silence, beauty, creativity, friendship, family, fellowship, and those who help us through so many difficult times—the list is endless. May the year 2021 be a time of growth and maturity for our congregations. May we be diligent to bring the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. May we follow the Son wherever He leads us, for we will never be disappointed if we remain faithful and true.

In Christ, Pastor Carol



**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

**Reverend Carol
Hamil Hickman,
Pastor**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Grove Avenue UMC's in-person services are temporarily suspended.

We will resume when in-person gatherings are no longer a threat to our worshippers' health! In the meantime, please worship with us:

on Facebook every Sunday at 10 am (Grove Ave UMC)

youtube (Johnstown CGH United Methodist Charge)

phone (dial 248-3258 twenty-four hours a day)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday:

8 am-1 pm

Friday:

8 am-Noon

Jennifer Robertson,
Administrative
Assistant

**GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2021 Leadership Teams**

**A Head Counter and two Trustees are essentially needed.
Please call the church office if you are willing to serve!**

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor: Carol Hickman
CCW: Natalie Marionneau
Chair: Eric Stuver (until 2023)
Vice Chair: Sue Allison
Treasurer: Georgia Miller

Council on Ministries Chair: Karen Allshouse

Endowment Chair: Bob Hagerich

Finance Chair: Eileen Stuver

Lay Leader: Eric Stuver

Lay Representative to Annual Conference: Lois Graham

Staff/Parish Relations Chair: Georgia Kerrick

Trustee Chair: *appointed by Trustees*

Members at Large: **2021:** Lois Graham **2022:** Bill Brice **2023:** Kim Fox

Board of Trustees

Chair: to be named by Trustees
Vice Chair: to be named by Trustees

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Doug Thierry Tom Charette	Joe Baldwin Georgia Kerrick	to be named to be named

Memorial Endowment and Education (*a sub-committee of the Trustees*)

Chair: Bob Hagerich	Finance Rep: Eileen Stuver
Co-Chair: Heather Brice	Member: Susan Mayer
Pastor: Carol Hickman	Trustee Rep: to be named by Trustees

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Eric Stuver	to be named	Vivian Young

Council of Ministries

Chair: Karen Allshouse (2021) Eric Stuver Donna Bako Lois Graham	Brenda Mills Pastor Deb Groeger Eileen Stuver Susan Mayer	Bob Birchfield Kim Fox Pastor Carol Hickman
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Finance Committee

Pastor: Carol Hickman

Chair: Eileen Stuver

Treasurer:

Assistant Treasurer: Georgia Tiffany

Financial Secretary: Administrative Assistant

Annual Conference Lay Rep: Lois Graham

Church Council: Eric Stuver

Endowment Committee Rep: Bob Hagerich

Lay Leader: Eric Stuver

Member at Large: Sharon Robertson

SPRC Rep: Georgia Kerrick

Trustee Rep: to be named by Trustees

Counting Committee (*a sub-committee of Finance*)

Chair: Georgia Miller

Members: Bonnie Laidig, Jack McLaughlin, Karen Allshouse, David Graham

Lay Leadership Development Team

Chair: Carol Hickman

Vice Chair: *****

Lay Leader: Eric Stuver

2021

Kim Fox

Jack McLaughlin

2022

Tom Sabo

Deb Groeger

2023

Georgia Tiffany

Brenda Mills

Staff/Parish Relations Committee

Chair: Georgia Kerrick

Lay Leader: Eric Stuver

Lay Rep: Lois Graham

2021

Bill Brice

2022

Sue Allison

2023

Georgia Miller

MINISTRY TEAMS

Children's Ministry

Chair: Donna Bako

Member: Georgia Tiffany

Communion Stewards

Eileen Stuver, Karen Allshouse, Deb Groeger, Georgia Miller

Good Samaritan Ministry (*Good Samaritan/Moxham Support combined*)

Chair: Georgia Miller

Members: Carole Murphy, Georgia Kerrick, Heather Brice, Deb Groeger, Natalie Marionneaux, Jennifer Robertson

Funeral Hospitality Ministry

Chair:

Funeral Dinner Coordinator: Brenda Mills

Power Point: Karen Allshouse

Members: Veronica James, John James, Bob Birchfield, Heather Brice, Bill Brice

Kitchen Support Ministry

Georgia Tiffany, Pam Kehl, Brenda Mills, Eileen Stuver

Outdoor Signage Team

Angela Rice, Natalie Marionneaux, Deb Groeger

WorshipTeam

Pastors: Carol Hickman, Deb Groeger

Chair: Lois Graham

Altar Guild: Jan Furdella

Director of Music: Denise Baldwin

Keyboardist: Harriet Miller

Lay Leader: Eric Stuver

Liturgist Coordinator: Eileen Stuver

Media: Karen Allshouse

Members: Vivian Young, Brenda Mills

***Please use the Church Directory
to contact any of the afore-mentioned Chairpersons
if you have a concern, comment , question, or praise
regarding Grove Avenue UMC.***



Food Pantry Ministry

Park Avenue UMC no longer hosts the Food Pantry.
This ministry team is eliminated since Goodwill is now responsible.

Thank you for your faithful service!

Chair: Heather Brice and **Volunteers:**

Georgia Kerrick, Sharon Scaletta, Veronica James, Georgia Tiffany, Angela Rice



Birthdays
and
Anniversaries

- 2 *Happy Anniversary, Joe and Denise Baldwin!*
- 4 Fred Sabo, Jan Furdella, Kirsten Kerrick
- 5 Sophie Reffner
- 8 Destiny Wallace
- 10 Lynea James
- 12 Bertha Sabo *,**
- 16 Richard Horner
- 18 *Happy Anniversary, Bill and Heather Brice!*
- 23 Bob Hagerich, Sue Allison
- 26 Rev. John James
- 29 Carole Murphy **

Please send a greeting to these Homebound and Over 80 friends!



Bertha Sabo
262 Shady Oak Dr
Johnstown, PA 15905

Carole Murphy
137 Worth St
Johnstown, PA 15905



GAUMC / CGH CHARGE NEWS

As we are back to church lockdowns and are offering three ways to worship together, Pastor Carol has opened up our Lector ministry to anyone who feels called to read Scripture.

Whether you are a member of Christ UMC, Grove Avenue UMC, Homestead Avenue UMC – or just enjoy worshipping with us on-line – you are invited to submit your name to Eileen Stuver, who is scheduling readers for our services.

Eileen can be reached at **(814) 525-0612** (phone/text) oreileenstuver@gmail.com

Our Lectors have been chosen for the Christmas season. Scheduling with Eileen will start for our January 10th services.

The Scripture readings and directions for recording them will be sent to you.

Thank you for answering the call!

♥ SYMPATHIES ♥

We extend prayers and sympathy to Karen Allshouse on the death of her cousin, Jennifer, from Covid-19. We pray for Jennifer's family to find healing and peace.

For all of us who know someone who's been affected by this pandemic, we offer prayers... For the hard-working caregivers and responders, we offer prayers...For the victims and their families, we pray....

**Whether worshipping by phone or Facebook,
please remember to send in your offering envelopes!**

***“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”***

The Wesley Covenant Prayer and the Baptismal Covenant
By Steve Manskar



We say goodbye to 2020, and hello to 2021. At the beginning of the new year congregations of the Wesleyan/Methodist family renew their covenant with God using the traditional Covenant Service. You will find it in *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. A piece of this important part of our tradition is the Covenant Prayer (above).

John Wesley adapted this prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his parents, Samuel and Suzannah, and life in the Epworth rectory. It informed his theology and preaching. He expected the people called "Methodists" to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant.

The prayer describes the life of a participant with Christ in his mission. It is a practical description of what Jesus was talking about when he said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Baptism marks the beginning of life in Christ and his *ecclesia*, a people who "profess to pursue holiness of heart and life; universal love filling the heart and governing the life." The Covenant prayer helps us remember what this Jesus-way of life looks like and what loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind and loving our neighbor as ourself requires of us.

When we pray this prayer we remember that we are baptized. We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin. We accept the freedom and power God gives to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves. We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, trust wholeheartedly in his grace, and promise to serve him as Lord, in union with the church. And we renew our promise to live as faithful members of Christ's church and serve as his representatives in the world. The Covenant Prayer describes missional life devoted to following Jesus and serving as Christ's representative in the world he loves and is working to redeem. It tells us that being a Christian is more a way of life than a system of beliefs. The Covenant Prayer describes the Jesus way of self-giving and self-emptying love.

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.



A Message from our Bishop

If our world was ever in need of a savior, it is in need of one now! If we ever needed God to be with us, we need God to be with us now.

Here is the Good News: The Savior is God with us. And as the hymn declares, our Savior gives us freedom from captivity to all that binds us. Emmanuel gives us victory over death. God with us gives us the grace needed to be able to experience joy in the midst of gloomy circumstances. So, rejoice! Rejoice!

In case you have any doubt, let me remind you that throughout scripture, we have ample evidence of God breaking through and being with God's people during difficult times. God traveled with God's people as they wandered in the wilderness. God was with God's people during the exile and as they returned home from exile. God showed up as Emmanuel when God's people were being oppressed by the Roman Empire.

Our hope is in our faith that God will be with us too. In case you have doubt, let me remind you it is God who helps us meet the needs of those in our communities who lost their income because of COVID-19. God gifted us with resources to do worship and ministry differently during this pandemic. God continues to answer our prayers. As I look around and see what God has done, I can assure you God is with us. Rejoice! Rejoice!

I believe that there are times God intervenes in our lives to provide tangible manifestations of theological truths. I can't help but think the arrival of a vaccine for the coronavirus is one of those times. We have received a dose of hope during Advent and just in time for Christmas. (Pun intended). There is light at the end of the tunnel. Rejoice! Rejoice!

As we all manage our exilic experience of COVID-19 restrictions; as some of us manage our grief over lost loved ones; as we manage having joy-filled worship in the midst of the gloom of state-mandated restrictions and recommendations, we can, in fact, rejoice! We can rejoice because we know God is with us.

My prayer is that God will send you even more tangible manifestations of this theological truth so that your rejoicing will break out into shouts of joy that can be heard beyond the bubble of those who live in your household. Rejoice! Rejoice!

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Welcome 2021!



HAPPY
New Year

*May your life be filled with
Joy, Peace,
Good Health & Success
that your heart desires....*

WORDSJUSTFORYOU.COM