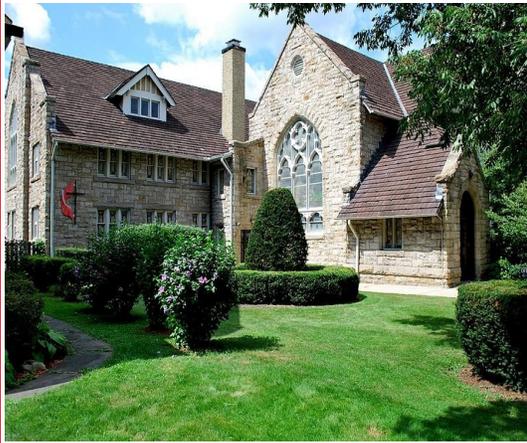


# The Messenger

February 2021



## GROVE AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

501 Grove Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15902

(814) 539-8684

groveavenuemc501@gmail.com

www.groveaveumc.com

### The Pastor's Desk

My Brothers and Sisters,

The season of Lent is almost upon; Lent comes fairly early this year. It begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. (We hope to return to in-person worship on Sunday, February 14, but how to safely do the Ash Wednesday service remains a mystery. We'll keep you posted on final plans.)

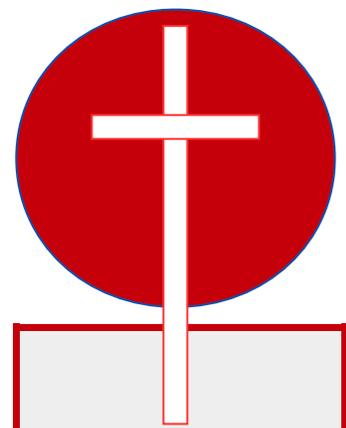
"Lent" comes from the ancient English word for "lengthening" – the lengthening of days, symbolizing the new life which emerges during the Spring. The 40 days of Lent come from the period of preparation for those desiring to be baptized into the mystery of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. It was also a time of penance and reconciliation for those who had fallen short in their faith walk. (I think that point covers all of us!) So....how do we, God's people, make Lent relevant in 2021? How do we approach Lent, practice Lent, and live Lent? How do we make Lent part of our story today? Maybe this year we need a season of Lent more than ever. Maybe we need to focus on our renewal after the past stressful and at times disheartening year.

God desires us to grow spiritually and experience a reawakening of our relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. We have received God's goodness and mercy when we were clothed with Christ on the day of our baptism. We have been reborn in Christ and the season of Lent is a time for exploring the wonder and beauty of our baptismal calling.

And so during Lent, we will examine what it means to us personally and communally to be a baptized Christian. We will explore the calling placed on our lives, how we live out that calling and how our calling impacts the world around us. Since we are baptized Christians, we cannot pass by on the other side, ignoring the needs and sufferings of those around us. We are reminded of our need for God's grace and of our obligation to serve in His name. Our awareness of God's abiding presence will ensure that we are moving onward to Christian perfection.

As we prepare to embark on our Lenten journey, you are invited to turn back to God — who created you, who loves you beyond your imagination. You are invited to proclaim that Jesus is the way to way, the truth and the life. Let us be cheerful and of good heart. Let us thank God for this opportunity to journey near to His heart, as we grow spiritually and walk with others. May we be faithful so that our Lenten journey may be fruitful.

Blessings, 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 worshipers' 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

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT  
TBA**

# About Grove Ave. UMC

## STAFF

**Community Minister,  
Hope-filled Relationships:**  
Deacon Natalie Marionneau

**Custodian:** Jay Adams

**Keyboardist:** Harriet Miller

**Lay Leader:** Eric Stuver

**Music Director:** Denise Baldwin

## Mission Statement

Reaching  
people with Christ,  
one person at a time.



## NEWS

### **Pray for the Healing of Our Nation!**

Rev. Susan Henry Crowe of the General Board of Church and Society, headquartered on Capitol Hill, suggested using words from the Prayer in a Time of National Crisis (UM Book of Worship 517):

May leaders be led by your wisdom;  
May they search your will and see it clearly  
If we have turned from your way,  
Reverse our ways and help us to repent.  
Give us your light and your truth,  
let them guide us;  
through Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord of this world,  
and our Savior. Amen.



### Birthdays and Anniversaries

7 – *Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Karen Hohman!*

9 – Ted Kerrick

10 – Sarah Armstrong

10 – Lauren Sabo

16 – Linda Allshouse \*

18 – Ryan Thomas

19 – Donna McLaughlin \*\*

21 – Kelly Kauffman

23 – Ainsley Stewart

24 – Bill Brice \*\*

27 – Kathy Gindlesperger

***Please send a greeting to these  
\* Homebound / \*\* Over 80 friends!***

Linda Allshouse  
Westmont Woods  
787 Goucher Street  
Johnstown, PA 15905

William Brice  
116 Luna Lane  
Johnstown, PA 15904

Donna McLaughlin  
202 Melvin Street  
Johnstown, PA 15904



### 2020 Fundraiser Recap

Despite the pandemic we were able to hold some fundraisers last year. Here is a breakdown of our profits:

Gobs - \$426.58

Spaghetti Dinner - \$689.13

Stuver's Nursery Coupons - \$270.00

We also participated in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" fundraiser. Due to the pandemic, it was held a little differently. We haven't received word on how much we raised during those two days. Many thanks to those who went shopping to help support Grove Avenue United Methodist Church.

### GAUMC / CGH CHARGE NEWS

If you feel called to read Scripture for our Sunday services, please contact Eileen Stuver, who is scheduling Lectors. Eileen can be reached at **(814) 525-0612** (phone/text) or [eileenstuver@gmail.com](mailto:eileenstuver@gmail.com)

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

♥ SYMPATHIES ♥

We extend our prayers and condolences to **Georgia Tiffany** and family upon the death of Georgia's husband, Raymond. Georgia, may your family find comfort in God's infinite graces.

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



## HOPE-FILLED RELATIONSHIPS

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

[nmarionneaux@umcmmission.org](mailto:nmarionneaux@umcmmission.org)  
and (814) 410-5457

### HFR Christmas Gift-card Giveaway

We miss seeing our neighbors! So this year for Christmas, for our neighbors, we gave away to folks over 100 gift cards to help fill the gap for some of their needs this season. Usually, via our Free Store, we are able to provide individuals with things like toilet paper, diapers, shampoo, dish liquid, laundry detergent and other things, but since March, our Free Store has been closed due to Covid.

We know our neighbors are struggling. With over 100 names and phone numbers for our neighbors, we reached out via text to invite them to the Christmas give-away. People made reservations and each family received an amount based on its family size. Although it could only be a token of what they needed, we know we were able to meet a little of that need.

The Free Store volunteers passed out the cards. We also gave away a gift bag to each family which included an Advent devotional book and handout. From the church parking lot, with social distancing, seven volunteers got to reconnect with our neighbors ~ and our neighbors got to reconnect with us. We were so excited to see familiar faces (new ones, too!), and we hope that our neighbors were glad to see us. Many folks went from car to car to say hello to everyone whom they haven't seen in months.

We have added 30 new names and phone numbers to our database. The more names and phone numbers we have, the more we can stay in touch with folks and see how they are doing. We will continue to regularly send out texts messages with our Sunday service link and uplifting content and events happening in the neighborhood - like the Moxham Food Pantry. Through December we sent out weekly texts. We look forward to being able to stay in touch with so many of our neighbors now and help to provide for a small part of their need via gift-cards.

We received grateful feedback from our neighbors, and they continue to ask when will we be opening the Free Store again. Because of safety and social distancing and trying to secure enough supplies, we do not know the answer to that question – yet but are talking about different ways to do so. It is hard for us knowing that folks are struggling, and we wish we could be there more, but we know how important it is to be safe during this dangerous time.

Blessings,

Natalie



Jennifer Robertson

Our dedicated Administrative Assistant has accepted a full-time position and has resigned from her job at GAUMC. Jennifer gave many years of service to Grove, and we will miss her.  
GOD BLESS YOU, JENNIFER!

*They say that all good things must end someday. Six years Grove Avenue hired one of its own as the Administrative Assistant. It was a day of rejoicing. But the time has come for Jennifer Robertson to go; go with our blessing and encouragement.*

*This is a time of mixed emotions. We can't imagine the office without Jennifer at the helm. She knows everyone, she is a wealth of information and she has kept everything running smoothly during this time of COVID. We have watched her grow into the professional woman she has become.*

*But seasons come and seasons go, and God moves people around. And so we celebrate Jennifer's new adventure. She has accepted a position at Davidsville Fuel. Not only is the position full-time but she will have benefits and 401K. What a blessing! Her last day at Grove Avenue is January 29. (Although she has graciously offered to help us out with a few things until we can hire her replacement.)*

*We love Jennifer; she is one of us. We happy because she will continue to be part of our congregation. When we return to in-person worship we will celebrate Jennifer's years of faithful service. (Although it won't be like our pre-COVID celebrations. It will be masks, social distancing and no food.) But we want to take the opportunity to thank Jennifer for her service and God for the gift of Jennifer.*

*Please send your notes of thanks to Jennifer at PO Box 153, Hooversville, PA 15936. Jennifer, go in peace God is with you always. Jennifer, go in peace, God will always love you –and so will we!*

Pastor Carol

From Jennifer

It is with great sadness that I will be leaving the church office, but with great joy that I have accepted a full-time job at Davidsville Fuel. I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you for the past 5 and a half years.

## GROVE AVENUE UMC JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

**TO BE ANNOUNCED..**

### ***In spite of COVID, we have reason to celebrate!***

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused grief and hardship for many people in the world and in our community. This is also true for our parishioners and friends. There has been and continues to be uncertainty in our finances. One cause is the transition to on-line services on March 22, 2020, resulting in changes giving patterns. The second is the general economic situation that will have a rippling effect for some time to come. And finally there are the changes to our personal financial situation due to COVID.

In spite of the circumstances, we have reason to celebrate! Although we ended the fiscal year in a deficit, we have not taken money from the Memorial Endowment Account for 2 years! Yeah! In the preceding years, we were using money from that account to just make ends meet. Our parishioners and friends have been faithful in their giving and have blessed Grove Avenue with their generosity.

We continue to pay our staff and bills and to receive income from offerings. We continue to provide pastoral and spiritual services including weekly online services (Facebook Live at 10 AM Sundays and later on Youtube channel – Johnstown CGH UM Charge), worship by phone (24/7 at local number 248-3258) and weekly Bible Study on Zoom. We are the church even although we are not worshipping in the church building. We have made by new friends through the online services.

God has richly blessed us. As we prepare to return to in-person worship, we remember how God has been faithful us – blessing Moxham and beyond through Grove Avenue for the past 133 years. We thank everyone who gave as they were able, sending their tithes and offerings to the church when we were not worshipping in the building. We thank everyone who gave not only of their finances but also their time and talents. We thank everyone who prays for Grove Avenue and its ministries. We thank God for his great faithfulness.

All we have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto us!

Thomas Obediah Chisholm, adapted

May the church continue to be a beacon of light and love for the community. May we continue to be a blessing to others, letting our light shine. May we have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. We are blessed! We have reasons to celebrate as we live in God's blessing!

