



The Messenger

Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

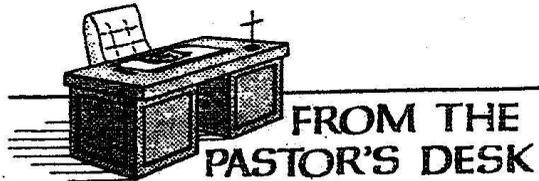
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold, Ph.D.

Rev. William F. Rogers, S.T.M.

Pastor

Pastor Emeritus



May 2012

Dear Friends,

As we move toward the month of May, we are passing through a time when there are high alerts to the danger of fire. While destructive fires are feared for good reason, fire itself can be beneficial. In fact, fire is the symbol of the Spirit that came upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost which we will celebrate at worship on May 20th. Following His resurrection Jesus told His disciples that before they went out into the world to spread the good news, they should wait for the empowerment of the Spirit. When that Spirit came, the disciples experienced Pentecost as wind and fire.

"Having been a volunteer fire fighter for 22 years." writes David Sprang of Gladwin, Missouri, "I know the connection between wind and fire. The fire triangle is HEAT/FUEL/AIR. The Church is a triangle of the warmth of the heart, the fuel of the Word, and the wind of the Spirit. And we (must) balance all of that. Too much wind of the Spirit, with no Word or love, makes for a fanatic. Word, without the Spirit or the heart, makes a scholar but not necessarily a Christian. And a good heart, without the Word or the Spirit, is just a humanist. The right mix produces a fire that propels the church."

When the needs of the world are so great, and you and I feel so small, it may seem overwhelming that God has called us, as part of the Church, to make a difference in the world. But we aren't expected to do it based on our own resources. We need the renewing and energizing of the Spirit, just as the first disciples did. Christ calls us to be on fire for God's work in the world.

The Spirit is a source of tremendous power we can see in the lives of real people. The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. found that power in the struggle for civil rights. And a struggle it was, reaching from a bus boycott in Birmingham, to a march on Selma, to the sanitation workers' strike in Memphis, facing not just opposition but tear gas, fire hoses, and police dogs. On his last campaign in Memphis he spoke about how he kept on going: "Having to live under the threat of death every day, sometimes I feel discouraged. Having to take so much abuse and criticism, sometimes from my own people, sometimes I feel discouraged. Having to go to bed so often frustrated with the chilly winds of adversity about to stagger me, sometimes I feel discouraged and feel my work's in vain. But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. In Gilead, there is balm to make the wounded whole."

Jesus' first followers knew that, as well, through trials and prisons and opposition, they knew the power of the Spirit. The fire of the Spirit gives comfort. But the Spirit can do more. It's said Oscar Romero was picked to become archbishop of San Salvador because he was not the kind of person to rock the boat. A quiet man, he was a strong supporter of the status quo, and at first, as archbishop, he stuck to that role. But then the government killed an activist priest, an elderly man and a young boy. Romero presided at the open-air mass which drew over 100,000 people from far and wide. The plaza was full to overflowing. As mass began, the archbishop was sweating, pale and nervous. The homily was slow, without his usual eloquence. But after about five minutes, one eyewitness said "I felt the Holy Spirit descend upon him," and his voice rose as he denounced those who had killed the three, adding "they will have to deal with me." That moment was a turning point, and Romero became a new person, calling El Salvador to account for what they were doing.

After Pentecost, the first Christians became new people, too. They went from tongue-tied and uncertain to carrying the Good News into the world. They knew the power of the Spirit. The Spirit changes people.

The words of a hymn remind us:

See how great a flame aspires, kindled by a spark of grace.
Jesus' love the nations fires, sets the kingdoms on a blaze.
To bring fire on earth he came, kindled in some hearts it is;
O that all might catch the flame, all partake the glorious bliss!

As we celebrate Pentecost together on May 20th, everyone is invited to wear red as a reminder of the fire of the Spirit. (My husband keeps a red blazer in his closet for just this occasion!)

Faithfully,

Pastor Judi



May GREETERS

In following our tradition to have someone to meet and greet folks coming into church, the following people have volunteered to be greeters for the month of May:

5/6 – Janet Mantynen, Gabriella Selbe & Dashanna Siebold
5/13 – Barb Bullock & Edna Rominger
5/20 – Mary Alice & Marty VanWie
5/27 – Alice Ross & Alice Distin

CHECK US OUT!

Grace has an exciting new web site for your convenience. Go to:
www.graceumcravena.org.
You're going to enjoy it!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee would like to thank those people who attended the special showing of the JESUS film. We collected a \$40.00 offering which was donated to the JESUS Film project. They will use this money to bring the film to remote areas of the world & develop more versions of the film. To

date, it has been translated into over 1200 languages.

If you missed the film this year...don't worry, we plan to make it an annual presentation during Lent.



Spring is Here!

The Bargain Shed opened on Saturday, April 14, for the 2012 season. Customers from previous seasons and new friends were greeted by a lovely spring day. The two weeks before opening were spent vacuuming, washing, decorating, etc. Many thanks to all the Bargain Shed workers for a job well done.

A local Boy Scout, Jordan Hazzard, will be joining us at the Book Nook and Bargain Shed on Saturdays. He is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout. On opening day, he volunteered in the Book Nook and was a great help.

We welcome seasonal donations any day when someone is at the Shed to receive them. Small furniture pieces will be most gratefully accepted. We do not however, accept TV's or computers. Thanks to all who have donated so far.

Stop in and visit us!



Church Women United

Grace UMC will be hosting the May meeting of Church Women United on Friday, May 4th at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Join women from other local churches for food and fellowship. Lunch will be provided. A collection will be taken for the RCS Scholarship Fund. We hope to be able to give out 4-6 Scholarships (\$200 each) to graduating seniors from the RCS school district. Please come and enjoy food and fellowship and support this worthy cause. If you have any questions, contact Jan Bradshaw at 518-577-3599.



CROP Hunger Walk

The Crop Walk for 2012 kicks off Sunday, May 6th at 2pm from Mosher Park. Registration begins at 1:30. Help Church World Service provide food for the hungry around the world (including USA). Ask your friends and co-workers to sponsor you. There are two routes: one is one mile long and the

other is three and one half miles. There will be food and entertainment at the park. Twenty-five percent of the money raised will go to our local food pantries. Please help us to help the hungry at home and around the world. For more information call Jan Bradshaw at 518-577-3599. Thank you!



Sales at the Book Nook as of 4/15 are **\$3,588.**

The Mid-Winter Book Sale was a **HUGE SUCCESS.** Thank you to all those who gave their time and skills to help.

The Book Nook is in need of someone to work one Thursday evening a month. Jean Gordon is the regular staff member in charge of Thursday evenings, but due to a previous commitment she must be away one Thursday a month. The time is 6-8 PM. If you are available please contact Joy Mayo (731-8076).

Further details will be coming, but mark your calendars for June 2nd...it's the Annual Ravena Yard Sale and both the Book Nook and the Bargain Shed will have something special going on.



The Chicken BBQ held on Thursday, April 19th yielded a profit of \$322.00. Many thanks go out to everyone who helped us. Frese's Catering is always very, very good and has a tremendous following. Reports tell us that the dinners were outstanding and plentiful!

For the next BBQ on Thursday, May 17, there will not be any tickets handed out to the congregation to sell, but Ginny Pearson will have tickets available for anyone looking to purchase them in advance up to Sunday, May 13th. FYI, anyone who wants one on the day of the BBQ, sales will be on a first come, first served basis at \$10 each.

The Spaghetti Dinner held on April 21st took in \$421 plus an additional \$47 in sales of leftovers on the following Sunday. The cost of the meatballs was \$100, giving the church a profit of \$368! That was great considering there were 2 very large dinners that same evening...one of which was the Coeymans Fire Company's installation dinner. Great competition! Many

thanks go out to all who helped on Friday evening and on Saturday.

MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 13TH ...THANKS, MOM

Dad came home to find toys all over the living room, dirty dishes stacked in the sink, clothes piled in the laundry room, beds unmade and kids still in their pajamas. The house was a wreck, like nothing he'd seen before.

Worried, Dad rushed upstairs to find Mom reading a book in bed. "Are you okay?" he asked. "What happened?"

"You know how you always ask what I do all day?" Mom replied. "Well, today I decided not to do it."

HOW WILL THEY KNOW?

A well-known 1960s song by Peter Scholtes answers an implied question: How will others know we're Jesus' disciples? Not by how we understand family values. Not by our politics or theology. Not by how many Bible verses we've memorized, how often we attend church or how much offering we give.

Rather, the song's title and refrain say it all: "They'll know we are Christians

by our love.” Jesus put it this way:
“Everyone will know that you are my
disciples, if you love one another”
(John 13:35, NIV).

Sometimes love involves words —
teaching, proclaiming, bearing witness
to God’s presence. But if words aren’t
backed by actions, they soon fall flat.
We can, as the song says, “spread the
news that God is in our land.” But if
we don’t live like that, no one will
believe it.

When we declare God’s reality but
withhold kindness from neighbors,
observers rightly question whether we
follow the God whose presence we
announce. But “if we love one another,
God lives in us and his love is made
complete in us” (1 John 4:12).

MEMORIAL DAY REFLECTION

(Remember our veterans on May 28th.)

We who are left, how shall we look
again
Happily on the sun or feel the rain
Without remembering how they who
went
Ungrudgingly and spent
Their lives for us loved, too, the sun
and rain?

—*Wilfred Wilson Gibson*

MAY’S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Best wishes go out to those celebrating
in the month of May:

3 James Quinn
4 Ann Coryell
4 Brandon Malloy
5 Sam & Hazel Lambert
6 Rilley Kellam
6 Jay & Chris Ingraham
13 Chelsea Youmans
19 Cassandra Contreras
19 Rodger & Barbara Coryell
20 Ginny Frazee
22 Al Burrill
23 Kate Robertson
27 George June
29 Paige Roller
31 Sadie Lambert

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to the following people:

- **Fran Lobdell** for donating an electric tea kettle to the church kitchen
- **Dotty Backlund & Stacey Gallagher** for the Caribbean arrangement gracing the Acoustic Doorways concert



Worthy of honor

What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

E	S	T	E	E	M	U	H	A	L	G	Z
F	K	M	R	Q	E	X	H	P	C	C	I
N	O	L	D	U	Y	S	S	P	R	N	E
I	P	J	L	J	I	R	T	R	M	Y	R
D	X	A	S	R	K	E	J	E	Z	K	O
R	V	O	E	J	P	S	X	C	F	A	D
Z	E	H	U	R	H	P	C	I	C	D	A
V	C	V	A	Q	N	E	Y	A	P	M	G
Q	D	I	E	P	F	C	M	T	Y	I	Z
Z	S	X	C	R	X	T	P	E	N	R	G
E	O	X	U	Y	E	U	A	Y	O	E	H
B	R	E	O	T	P	U	K	O	O	L	Q

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

If you are on Facebook, please join the church page by *liking us* at Grace United Methodist Church, Ravena, NY. Find out what is happening each week from Sunday's Service sermon title and hymns to meetings and special events.

OR VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.graceumcravena.org



Deadline for articles for the **June** issue of *The Messenger* is **May 20th**. Please send or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**