



# *The Messenger*

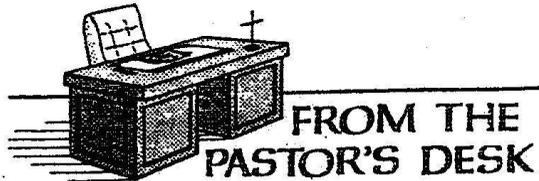
## Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold, Ph.D.  
Pastor

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



June 2012

Dear Friends,

It was a year ago when our Bishop appointed me to come be your pastor, effective the first of July. It was an exciting and scary time. Change is always disruptive, and the uncertainty of what it will bring can be worrisome. Now that we've been through at least three of the seasons together I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those of you who make up the Church of Jesus Christ in the United Methodist congregation in Ravena.

My family and I are grateful for your hospitality. Hospitality is extremely important for several reasons: (1) It assumes the best about the other person and courageously acts without proof of those assumptions; (2) it begins a relationship on a happy note until the actual getting-to-know-each-other process has had time to go into effect; (3) it makes it possible for newcomers to relax and be at their best, rather than having to be defensive and worry about whether or not they are accepted; and (4) it fulfills Jesus' vision of a kingdom where people treat each other as they would treat Christ. So, thank you for your hospitality.

I am grateful for your dedication. It makes my heart sing to be part of a congregation where people give of their time so freely to plan, think, clean, sing, care, listen, play, lead, learn, teach, direct, arrange, carry, sell, phone, pray, candlelight, practice, liturgize, fold, record, visit, council, calculate, print, type, cook, serve, set up, take down, warm up, check on, illuminate, inform, notice, fix, create, communicate, cooperate, count, support, finance, enable, bake, encourage, and model the love of God. Thank you for your dedication.

I appreciate your flexibility. Institutions that have been around a long time like the Church have a tendency to find out what works best, and then continue that practice forever. On the surface, that makes sense, but it fails to take into consideration the fact that times and needs change. As one of our old hymns puts it "time makes ancient good uncouth." So flexibility is required in order that we might be rooted in what is crucial and distinctive, yet remain able to apply those principles to new and changing conditions. Your willingness to consider new applications of old and valued principles is part of what makes Grace UMC such a wonderful part of Christ's Church. Thank you for your flexibility.

The other night after a meeting in which the work was efficiently done while people affirmed and supported each other, I stepped out into a beautiful moon-lit evening. The sleepy chirps of the birds accompanied the grateful song in my heart, and I wanted to throw my arms around all of you. Since that's not possible, please accept my humble thanks.

Faithfully,

*Pastor Judi*



## LOOKING AHEAD IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

As we come to the conclusion of another school year, some of us are already planning for the opening of school in the Fall. For Church members, that includes Sunday School. We are grateful for our dedicated Superintendent and teachers, and I encourage you to express your appreciation to them.

If you have a passion for the Christian education of children, if you believe that their religious upbringing is important for their health and happiness, if a strong Sunday School is important to you, and if you would like to be involved in the Sunday School program, please contact Pastor Judi. Together we can explore possibilities for how you might make a difference in the lives of children and youth who are touched by Grace United Methodist Church.



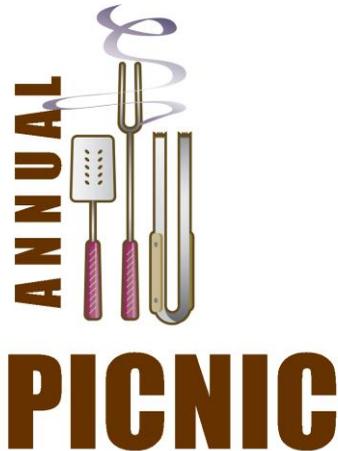
## PARSONAGE POTLUCK BARBEQUE SCHEDULED

On a cold and windy Friday night in April the Lenten Candle Extinguishers

enjoyed a Thank-You Barbeque at the Parsonage. A good time was had by all, and the participants thought it would be fun to have another Parsonage Barbeque, open to the whole congregation, when the weather was more conducive to enjoying the outdoors.

The date of the new Barbeque is Friday night, June 15th, at 6pm. The rain date is two weeks later on June 29th.

Everyone is invited to come bring a dish (or bag, jar, or platter) to pass.



Grace UMC's Annual Children's Day and Choir Cook-out will be after worship on Sunday, June 10th. Please bring a dish to pass and celebrate the contributions of our Sunday School and Choirs.

## GRACE UMC TO HOST BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Our church will host this year's RCS Baccalaureate Service for High School Seniors on Thursday evening, June 21st, at 7pm.

RCS students are planning the service with the guidance of a Senior Class Advisor and two of the officers of the RCS Association. Many musical offerings are anticipated. Pastor Judi will be bringing the message. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate this special time in the life of RCS's High School graduates.



## ECUMENICAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Our church will be hosting this year's Ecumenical Vacation Bible School during the week of July 23rd -27th from 6-8:30 in the evening. Supper will be included, and Beth Babcock has graciously offered to head up that effort.

The Bible School has an underwater theme as its participants are invited to go deeper in their faith. Adrienne Seymour will create these underwater scenes, Mike Mattick will help with the science experiments, Darlene Westervelt will teach the older elementary class, Susan Eccleston will help with crafts, and Sharon Phillips will be in charge of the music. The M.C., Ocho the Octopus puppet, has already arrived and Pastor Judi is enjoying making its acquaintance.

The next VBS Planning Meeting will be Wednesday night, May 30th, in the Lounge here at Grace at 6pm. More volunteers are needed in all areas, so interested persons should come to this meeting or contact Pastor Judi to offer their availability.



## BARGAIN SHED & BOOK NOOK

The Bargain Shed recently hosted Sunday coffee hour right in the Shed. The usual delicious fare was offered and we thank the workers who brought sandwiches, cookies, etc. We were so happy to have a bright, sunny day!

Ravena Yard Sale Day is Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. For that occasion, both the

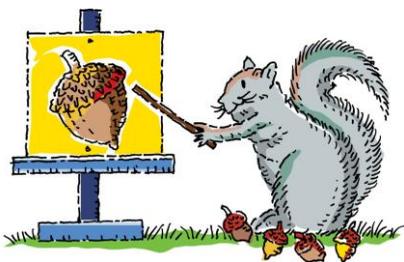
Bargain Shed and the Book Nook will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The “Outside Book Sale” will have a special – \$2 a bag. It will be a great opportunity to get your summer reading material. Set-up for the book sale will take place on Friday afternoon and evening. If you have an hour or so to spare, your help would be much appreciated.

As of May 20<sup>th</sup>, sales for the Bargain Shed totaled **\$1,352**. Donations are always gratefully accepted. (Please, no tv’s or computers.)

Book Nook sales through May 20<sup>th</sup> are **\$4,336**. Great job by both ministries!!

If you have an interest in working at the Bargain Shed or in the Book Nook, you would be more than welcome. Please see Edna Rominger or Joy Mayo.



### FALL FAIR PLANNING

The Administrative Board has decided to devote the majority of their June

19th meeting to planning our Fall Fair. This event has been the hallmark of our church calendar for many years and we are looking to make this fair our best ever! That's why the June 19th meeting is open to all who would like to help with the planning.

Ken Bliss has agreed to chair the event and is eager to make this event successful and says he must rely on the experience of those who have done this in the past. If everyone does their part, it should make his job a lot easier.

The June 19th meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and **ALL ARE WELCOME** to attend. The business of the Administrative Board will be discussed early and will be brief. The remainder of the meeting will focus on the Fall Fair.

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

The Evangelism Committee would like to thank all those who attended our Friendship Day event with The Friendship Singers and those who invited friends to join them during worship. It was our pleasure to present all guests with a beautiful flower to take home and plant.

This kind of event helps us prepare to welcome the newcomer. Although

we're already a welcoming & friendly congregation, we are also very accustomed to seeing the same faces week after week. When we become too familiar with each other, we often forget what it's like to be a newcomer.

In an effort to educate ourselves on becoming more inviting & welcoming to our visitors, the committee will be publishing several articles from United Methodist Communications called "Re-Think Church." Not only will we learn to become more welcoming, we will also be reminded that church is more than a building...it's a place where people relate to God and each other in various ways.

## NEWS FROM HOME APPRECIATED

As we all know, Riley Seaburg is serving in Afghanistan and like most away from home, is likely to be very happy to receive mail from his hometown church family. You can write to Riley at:

Spc. Seaburg  
45<sup>th</sup> Sust BDE  
B427APO AE 09355

Let's let Riley know how much we appreciate him!

## TRUSTEES

George June fixed the outlets in the Sunday School Rooms that needed replacement. If you have been chilly in Church or Fellowship Hall lately, it is no one's fault; only that the temperature outdoors was too warm (over 50) for the furnaces to turn on.

We tried to override it at one point and even called Persico's Oil but nothing could be done about the way it was set up years ago.

## CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER

Thank you all for purchasing tickets ahead of time which gave Tom Frese a good idea of how many more dinner fixings to bring for a successful day. On May 17<sup>th</sup> we sold 153 dinners giving the church a profit of **\$488.05**. Many heartfelt thanks to Mary Alice Van Wie and to Jan & Ray Bradshaw for their help to Ginny & Wayne Pearson.

Our next BBQ with Frese's Catering is June 21, at the old Crossroads Ford site from 4:30pm until sold out. Contact Ginny for advance tickets. All ticket prices are \$10.

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

2 Erin Haslett  
5 Pam Ginder  
6 Jim & Peggy Sherman  
15 Jay & Sue Ruso  
16 Edna Kniffen  
17 Janet & Ron Mantynen  
20 Kristina Mantynen Gish  
22 Beth Spoor

## A LESSON FROM CHICKENS

I have often noticed that when chickens quit quarreling over their food, they often find that there is enough for all of them. I wonder if it might not be the same with the human race.

—*Don Marquis*

“When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry.”

—*Jewish Proverb*

## ‘Well, kiddo, it’s you and me!’

T.J., a boy with developmental delays, is featured in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Children with Special Needs*. T.J. and his father, who’d long yearned for a son, settled into a routine of daily outings.

Stacey, one of T.J.’s sisters, was moved when she realized how much their father loved that together time. One day, as their dad made T.J. laugh, “T.J. stopped and reached up to softly touch our father’s face,” Stacey writes. “My dad looked down at him and said ... ‘Well, kiddo, it looks like it’s you and me for the rest of my life.’ There wasn’t a sense of sadness or burden in my father’s voice, only acceptance and unconditional love.”

Our Father God says the same to each of us: “Well, kiddo, it’s you and me forever!” No matter our weaknesses, our differences or even our tendencies to avoid time with him, God speaks with complete acceptance and love. He loves being with us — just as we are — and rejoices to be our Father forever.

# "Sweet" CARD

Make this Father's Day card using some of your dad's favorite candy.



## What you need:

- Wrapped candy or candy bars
- Poster board or large piece of cardboard
- Markers
- Clear tape

## What you do:

1. With an adult, purchase a variety of candy.
2. Using poster board and markers, create a poem or letter for your dad. Include the candy name(s) in your message. For a Snickers bar, you can write, "I love to snicker at your jokes!" For an Almond Joy, you can write, "Wishing you lots of joy this Father's Day!"
3. Tape the candy to your giant card and present it to your dad on Father's Day.





# ★ A FATHER'S ★ INSTRUCTION

★ Although babies don't come with instructions, ★  
God tells parents how to raise their children. ★

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with letters, using the number grid to find the correct coordinates. The first number goes across, and the second one goes down.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	a	L	d	i	j	g	r
2	m	b	o	k	h	u	s
3	e	n	c	x	t	p	f

“ ... 2,2 7,1 4,1 2,3 6,1 5,3 5,2 1,3 1,2  
6,2 6,3 4,1 2,3 5,3 5,2 1,3  
5,3 7,1 1,1 4,1 2,3 4,1 2,3 6,1 1,1 2,3 3,1  
4,1 2,3 7,2 5,3 7,1 6,2 3,3 5,3 4,1 3,2 2,3  
3,2 7,3 5,3 5,2 1,3 2,1 3,2 7,1 3,1 .”

EPHESIANS 6:4, NIV

Answers: “ ... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

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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](http://www.graceumcravena.org)



Deadline for articles for the **July** issue of *The Messenger* is **June 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please send or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

[bbullock812@gmail.com](mailto:bbullock812@gmail.com)

or

fax to: **731-8994**