



The Messenger

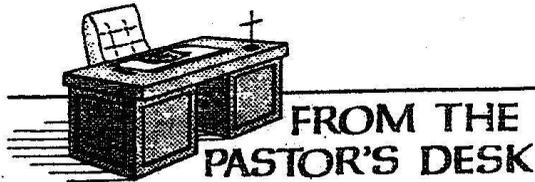
Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



August 2012

Dear Friends,

My office is a mess! With the all-churches Vacation Bible School over soon, I'll be able to clean out all the VBS activities and fish-related decorations, but I'll still have extra books and manipulatives for Thursday Toddlers and Twos. Then there's the large autumn-scene puzzle completed by the Friends Around the Fireplace that will be just the thing for adorning the fireplace mantle during our Fall Fair on September 29th. Did I mention the two big plywood trees that were going to be thrown out, but I was sure we would need them sometime so they're waiting in the corner?

Also taking up space in the CD player that provided music for the small wedding at which I officiated a few weeks ago. It sits next to a pile of attendance sheets and membership lists that help me keep track of everybody's comings and goings.

Catalogs and pamphlets awaiting my perusal are in another pile, with those relating to church signs at the very top. Also prominently displayed is a jumbo-sized package of batteries reassuring me that I can quickly find them when the microphone fails while I'm preaching.

I try to corral the wagonload of children's books under my worktable and the oscillating fan directed so it doesn't scatter my stack of good ideas. I attempt to keep the resources for Disciple Bible Study tucked away, but a workbook or video sometimes escapes my efforts at organization.

All these items in my office may create disorder, but they are reminders of the lives that are being touched by Grace UMC. It's exciting being part of a congregation that offers Christian education to the town's children, fellowship and friendship to the town's adults, and nurture to our own congregation.

My office is messy because being part of a busy Church is messy business, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

Faithfully,

Pastor Judi





HELP NEEDED!!! **9th Annual Huge Book Sale**

The 9th Annual Huge Book Sale will be held Friday, August 3rd and Saturday, August 4th from 9-3. We will need all the help we can get to set up, work at the sale and to help take down. Any time you are available to volunteer Monday, July 30 – Thursday, August 2 (9-3, 6-8) we would appreciate your help.

We will also be running a mini-rummage sale (to pay for the ads) and YES, the words again are “HELP NEEDED.” The Bargain Shed will be open both days from 9-3. Also, refreshments will be on sale each day.

There is a sign up sheet on the table by the books or you can just appear. Our goal for the sale is \$2000 and with your help we can meet it and maybe even beat it.

P.S. If you have some books you can bear to part with, we would welcome them.

P.S.S. Book sales through July 22nd are **\$5,261!**

BARGAIN SHED

The Bargain Shed has been very busy—in spite of the hot weather. And soon we will be changing over to our fall/winter merchandise.

In advance of that changeover, we will be having a half-price sale on all spring/summer clothes, shoes and handbags beginning Tuesday, July 31st. That sale will run through August 18th.

Your fall/winter donations will be most welcome during the week of August 20. They can be dropped off any time someone is present at the Shed. We will be on site most days during that week of August 20. Donations of single or small pieces of furniture are very welcome. Once again, please do not leave items outside. (REMINDER: We cannot accept TVs or computers.)

Sales for the Bargain Shed through July 22nd are **\$3,245!**



“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken.”

—James Dent



We would like to have an adult bell choir again. If you're interested, please call Frannie Lobdell at 756-6528 or email frannie306@gmail.com.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Best wishes go out to all those who will be celebrating in the month of August:

- 4 Jim Youmans
- 9 Ken Bliss
- 9 Elizabeth Robertson
- 9 Brian Phillips
- 10 Audry & George June
- 10 Brian & Sharon Phillips
- 12 Barb Bullock
- 16 Beth Babcock
- 17 Pastor Judi and Pastor Allen
- 18 John Ginder
- 18 Stacey Youmans
- 21 Jonathan Haslett
- 21 Evangelyn Seymour
- 22 Mark Contreras
- 23 Ethan Johnson
- 24 Gabriella Selbe
- 25 Devin Whitney
- 25 Ryan Roe

AUGUST'S CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER

The next BBQ with Frese's Catering is August 16th at the same location...the old Crossroads Ford site from 4:30pm until sold out. Contact Ginny Pearson for advance tickets. All ticket prices are \$10. It gives us a definitive count when you prepay for your dinners and will help us avoid running out. If you can do this, please do. As always thanks for your support!

Proceeds from the July BBQ were **\$310!**

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

Have you ever wanted to:

- have an overview of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation?
- meet weekly with others trying to apply Bible teachings to the life of their family, guided by a workbook and video input from highly educated Bible scholars and Seminary professors?
- be involved in a disciplined encounter with Scripture?

If the you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then Grace UMC has a

Bible Study for you offered by Pastor Judi and meeting September through June on Wednesday evenings from 6-8:30. At the first meeting on September 19th we will begin with a potluck supper and answer questions about Disciple Bible Study. We will offer childcare if there are volunteers from the congregation.



Thanks for Your Support!

Lisa Tuscano held a fundraiser at Grace UMC on Saturday, July 21st for her granddaughter, Alexis Bently.

Alexis is 3 years old and has leukemia. Lisa prepared and served a baked ziti dinner from 4 to 8PM. Many baskets were prepared and donated by friends and businesses in the community.

Lisa tells us that the benefit dinner raised \$700.00 and with the 50/50 and basket sales, Alexis was the recipient of \$1500.00.

We are watching Alexis fight...and fight she does as she undergoes her chemo and steroid injections. Our

prayers are with this precious little girl for a full recovery.



Just a Note...

I had a birthday earlier this month. I've had so many. I'd about decided to ignore this one. But someone here at church had 18 or 20 folks sign a beautiful card for me which gave me a whole new outlook. You made my day!

Thank you...thank you!! I did have a great birthday!!

- Jean Lyons

A DARK & STORMY NIGHT

During a loud summer thunderstorm, a mother tucked her son into bed. As she turned off the light, he asked with a tremor, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?"

The mother smiled and gave her son a reassuring hug. "I can't, dear," she said. "I have to sleep in Daddy's room."

After a long silence, the boy replied, "The big sissy."

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We were advised by the ladies in charge of St Patrick's local food pantry that more and more people are applying for food and that the staff is finding it difficult to fill their needs. Ten more families have requested help in just a short time.



Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Annual Fall Fair on Saturday, September 29th. If you'd like to help out in some way, and maybe you don't even know *how* you can help, contact Ken Bliss. There are all kinds of needs that need to be filled to make this fund raiser the biggest success ever.

If you can bake, craft, serve, or just supply a helping hand, please try to volunteer to do something.

ROCKY PATHS

“If God sends us over rocky paths, he will provide us with sturdy shoes,” said 19th-century pastor Alexander MacLaren.

Still, wouldn't most of us trade those shoes for a smooth road? We wonder why life is so hard and pray for an easier way. But a shortcut is often the wrong path.

“It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God,” we hear in Acts 14:22 (NRSV). Faith requires hardship to grow, and there are things we can't learn unless we endure tough times. Thanks be to God for providing exactly what we need, no matter what we face.

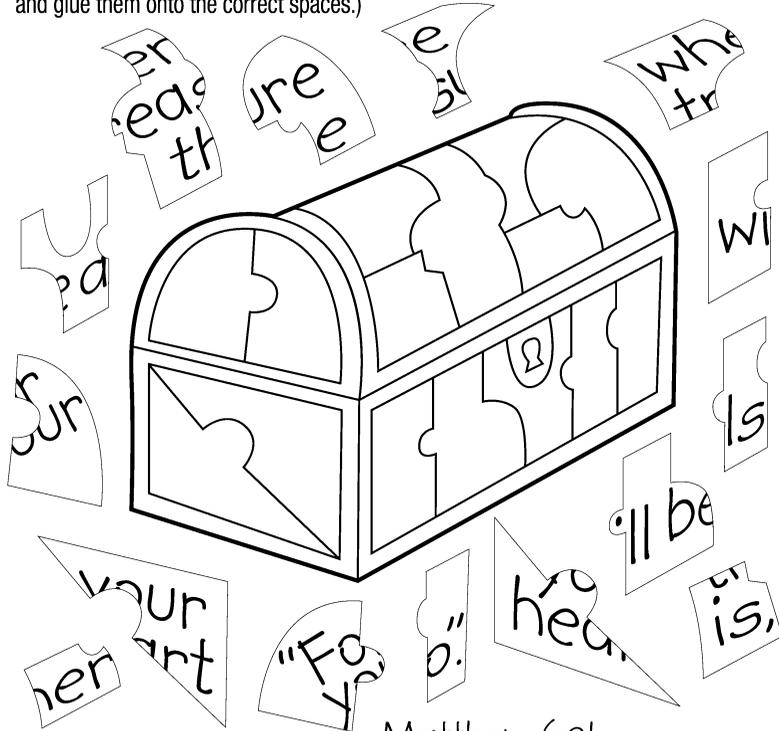


PUZZLE

TRUE TREASURE

The Bible speaks often of “treasure” – where we can find it, who gives it and who can have it.

Directions: Match the puzzle pieces to the correct shape. Then write the letters to learn what Matthew 6:21 (NIV) says about treasure. (Younger children can cut out the shapes and glue them onto the correct spaces.)



Matthew 6:21, NIV

Answer: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21, NIV)

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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's 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 **September** issue of *The Messenger* is **August 19th**. Please send or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**