



# *The Messenger*

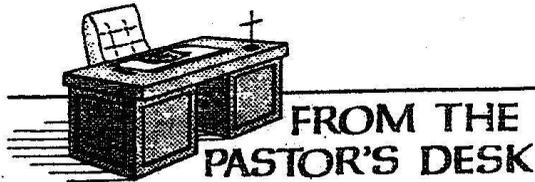
## Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



**September 2012**

Dear Friends,

Now that it's almost back to school time I'm very pleased to announce that children's Sunday School will have a new and exciting format. Using a rotation model similar to Vacation Bible School, teachers and students will begin each Sunday in the worship service where each Sunday's praise hymn will be the music for the Sunday School, and the Time Especially For Children will be a telling of the Sunday school Bible story for the day. Then the children will be dismissed to a twenty-minute class session with their teacher, and a twenty-minute craft session related to the Bible story, led by a member of the congregation.

So, for example, on the first day of Sunday School the lesson is about the birth of Moses and the way his mother placed him in a basket floating in the river to hide him from the murderous Pharaoh. His sister watched over him, and the Princess found him and hired his mother to nurse him. The Praise Hymn for Worship will be "Moses, We Know Your Name," and the Time Especially For Children will focus on that Bible story, pointing out that it illustrates the way God often counts on several people to bring about God's wishes. The children will be dismissed to rotate to a twenty minute class with their classroom teachers for direct instruction, and a volunteer-led craft of basket-weaving using actual cat-tails and river grasses.

There are many benefits to this way of doing Sunday School:

1. It insures that each week's Bible story is well explained more than once. (Children learn best through repetition.)
2. It allows children to legitimately move around. (It is as hard for children to sit still as it is for older people to move around.)
3. It's fun for the children. (Children should not dislike Sunday School.)
4. It teaches using a variety of approaches so all the senses are involved. (Children learn best when they can use all their senses.)
5. It gives members of the congregation another opportunity to interact with the children. (The Church is a community where all have gifts to offer.)

This approach will work best if many members of the congregation will offer their skills occasionally. Bible stories can be reinforced through many hands-on activities, including carpentry, sewing, cooking, baking, photography, drawing, painting, sculpting, composing, poetry, newspaper production, essay, drama, model-building, stamping, candle making, braiding, planting, and weaving.

Please be thinking about an activity you enjoy that you can share with the children. We'll find a way to relate it to a Bible story.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Judi*

P.S. Just a reminder - the Middle School - High School Class will meet Sundays at 9am.



## OPERATION OVERBOARD INVOLVES OVER FIFTY PEOPLE

Grace UMC was the scene for this year's RCS Association of Churches Vacation Bible School held July 23rd-27th from 6-8:30pm. Thirty-one children and more than twenty adults were involved in "Operation Overboard" that invited the children to go deeper in their faith by depending on God, daring to care, claiming Jesus, choosing to follow Him, and thereby changing the world.

Pastor Judi enjoyed serving as puppeteer for Ocho the Octopus and wants to express her appreciation to Edna Kniffen for overseeing teaching supplies; to Sharon Phillips for leading singing and teaching songs; to Beth Babcock, Jan Bradshaw and Liz Spence for preparing, presenting, and cleaning up after supper each evening; to Meghan Gallagher for service as Crew Chief and interacting with Ocho the Octopus; to Adrienne Seymour for orchestrating the impressive scenery and serving as Registrar; to Darlene Westervelt, Pastor Susan Kerr, Jamie Breedlove, Phyllis Shook, and Meghan Gallagher for teaching; to Sue Eccleston and Pam Ginder for involving the children in crafts; to Mike and Wendy Mattick and Dashanna Siebold for science experiments; to James June

for serving as Mission Spokesman; to Amy Young and Stephanie Canahan for serving as shepherds; to Josh Dedrick as floater; to Sue Eccleston, Dottie Backlund, and Pam Trombly for creating net bags for all the children; to Pam Ginder for taking pictures and creating a VBS Power Point presentation for the Sunday following VBS; to Ray Bradshaw for serving as temporary Crew Chief for the VBS Sunday morning announcement preceding VBS, and to any who, known only to God, quietly added their assistance.



### 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 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.

## DOODLE GALLERY

Take a moment to stop by and check out the Doodle Gallery on your way into church next week. We have some very talented young artists in our congregation!

## A NEW SEASON AT THE BARGAIN SHED

The Spring/Summer stock at the Bargain Shed has now been replaced with Fall/Winter items. Thanks to all the staff that helped with the changeover!

**Thinking ahead to the Fall Fair** - We are hoping to borrow 2 or 3 pop-up canopies to protect items and staff who

will be working outdoors. If you have one you would be willing to loan us, please see Edna Rominger.

Our hours continue to be Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

We truly appreciate your generous donations and continued patronage.

NOTE: Sales for the Bargain Shed through August 19<sup>th</sup> are **\$3,902!** Funds raised by the Bargain Shed are joined by the ever-present Book Nook whose sales through the same time period are **\$7,916!** Where would we be without these two wonderful ministries? Kudos to all who have pitched in!



## Sunday School News

Sunday School for the 2012-13 school year begins Sunday, September 16th, Homecoming Sunday. The classes and teachers are as follows:

The Younger Children's Class (Preschool through 1st grade) will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:30 for music and

the Bible Story, and then go with their teachers, James June and Trey Coryell, to crafts and class.

The Older Children's Class (2nd through 5th grade) will meet in the Sanctuary at 10:30 for music and the Bible Story, and then go with their teacher, Mike Mattick, to class and crafts.

The Middle School - High School Class will be taught by Barb Coryell and will meet at 9am, so that those students can be involved in worship, nursery, and children's Sunday School at 10:30.

The September Craft Leaders will be:

**Sept. 16th** - Dottie Backlund with basket weaving

**Sept. 23rd** - Sue Eccleston with magnetic gifts

**Sept. 30th** - Peggy Sherman with sand art



Over the past several years, our church has faithfully provided school supplies for families in need. This year, the Evangelism Committee is once again requesting your support in this effort. For the next couple weeks, we'll be

collecting donated items...such as: **notebooks, pens, pencils, book covers, crayons etc.**

As always, the donated items will be brought to CHOICES in Faith Plaza for distribution. Mr. Dolan continues to be appreciative of the commitment our church has made to help parents and their children. He looks forward to our donation every school year.

Look for our collection area on the table just outside the lounge.



## birthdays & anniversaries

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

- 6 Ron Mantynen
- 6 Barbara Millious
- 8 Mark & Jean Gordon
- 10 Kallian Morse
- 13 Steve & Phyllis Shook
- 14 Ashley Miller
- 16 Rodger Coryell
- 21 Rebecca Shook
- 23 Christian Haslett
- 27 Heather Meisner
- 27 Jean Gordon
- 29 Alicia Moss
- 29 John Mantynen

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Early one morning, a mother woke her son, who whined about having to go to school.

“Give me two reasons why you don’t want to go,” she said.

“Well,” he complained, “the kids don’t like me, and neither do the teachers!”

“Nonsense,” she said. “Come get ready.”

“Give me two reasons why I should go,” the son protested.

“Well, for one, you’re 52,” she said. “For another, you’re the principal!”

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Chicken BBQ sales for August were \$310. This terrific and tasty fundraiser brought over **\$1,500** to Grace UMC! Thanks go out to Ginny and Wayne Pearson for coordinating these events along with all those who helped out at the site to package and hand over the dinners and to all the patrons who enjoyed these scrumptious, filling & easy dinners!

## Labor Day



## Reflections

Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers.

In a strong economy, it’s easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past few years, with many people still struggling with **unemployment** and **underemployment**.

During our holiday celebrations this year, let’s give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren’t as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.

## COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Dad,  
School is really great. I'm making lots of friends and studying very hard. With all my stuff, I simply can't think of anything I need. So if you'd like, you can just send me a card, as I'd love to hear from you. Love, Your Son

Reply:  
I know that astronomy, economics and oceanography are enough to keep even an honor student busy. Do not forget that the pursuit of knowledge is a noble task, and you can never study enough. Dad

## FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

With the summer break now over, please don't forget that our friends at St. Patrick's Food Pantry continue to need our support. Won't you bring in an item or two to donate each Sunday? Our children love taking those items to add to the basket on the altar. They are learning by watching your generosity in helping those less fortunate.

## FALL FAIR

Come join the fun at the Annual Fall Fair on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. If

you can bake, craft, serve, donate, or just supply a helping hand, please volunteer to do *something*. See Ken Bliss if you can help in any way.



## NIGHTINGALES TO RESTART

More info will be forthcoming, but this is a reminder that the Nightingales will be coming together again under the direction of Christine Frazee who is accompanied on guitar by Sharon Phillips. This choir welcomes children of all ages. Maybe your child(ren) would like to join the fun by singing with this group!

## A POWERFUL WEAPON

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.

—Samuel Chadwick

## SING TO THE LORD

The hymn “Earth and All Stars,” based on Psalm 148, invites all creation to praise the Lord. Some people love Pastor Herbert Brokering’s all-encompassing lyrics; others appreciate calling the earth, stars, plant life and weather to sing to the Lord but find it far-fetched to urge engines, steel and hammers to do so.

The song’s fifth verse and part of the sixth make it especially popular for school-year kickoffs:

*Classrooms and labs, loud boiling  
test tubes,  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band, loud cheering  
people,  
Sing to the Lord a new song! ...  
Knowledge and truth, loud  
sounding wisdom,  
Sing to the Lord a new song!*

Whether or not you find the hymn poetic, it reminds us that God gives us the ability to learn. Factual knowledge and critical thinking need not impair faith, but they can strengthen it.

## SPELLING SPREE

A kindergartner was practicing his spelling with magnetic letters on the refrigerator. He’d formed the words

*cat, dog, dad* and *mom* for his family to see.

One morning, the boy greeted his proud mother with arms outstretched. In his hands were three magnetic letters: G-O-D. “Look what I spelled!” he exclaimed.

“That’s wonderful!” Mom said. “Now go put them on the fridge so Dad can see them, too.” Happily, she thought, “That Christian education sure is having a great impact.”

Just then, a little voice called from the kitchen. “Mom? How do you spell ‘-zilla?’”



## CELEBRATE GRANDPARENTS

Several sociological factors are affecting grandparents’ role. Because families are spread out geographically, “long-distance grandparenting” is now common. On the other end of the spectrum, many grandparents are actually raising their grandchildren.

Despite modern-day challenges and changes, grandparents are more

important than ever for providing kids with a sense of history and heritage. Whether through social media and Skype or special outings and story-telling, the older generation has a variety of avenues for connecting with grandkids.

In the process, grandparents can share their Christian faith. “One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4, NIV).

## **PARENT-PARISH PARTNERSHIP**

“Let no Christian parents fall into the delusion that Sunday school is intended to ease them of their personal duties,” said 19th-century British preacher Charles H. Spurgeon. “The first and

most natural condition of things is for Christian parents to train up their own children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

Studies show that parents are their kids’ strongest influencers in faith matters. Dr. Christian Smith, director of the influential *National Study of Youth and Religion*, wrote: “In most cases, parents are the most important Christian pastors teenagers will ever have — for better or worse.” The sense of separateness between home and church, he said, “must be replaced by a more cooperative, integrated, comprehensive approach to the faith formation of young people.”



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



Deadline for articles for the **October** issue of *The Messenger* is **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please send or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

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*or*

fax to: **731-8994**