



The Messenger

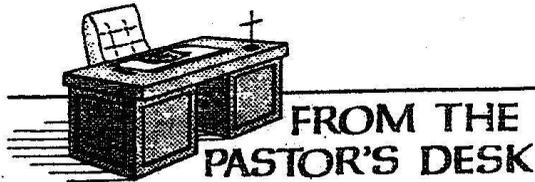
Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



October 2012

Dear Friends,

It was an October Saturday morning several years ago. Colorful leaves swirled through the air, and warm sun shone through the window of my car where a full gas tank hinted at unlimited possibilities. As I drove through the streets, multiple garage sales beckoned. Each block revealed colorful arrays of household items, suggesting treasures that could be mine if only I would come and buy. I hungered to stop, as each sale called to me. I ignored their promise to fill my emptiness and resolutely passed each one. There would be no carefree garage saling for me today. Today it was my responsibility to pay a hospital call to a dying parishioner. Arriving at the hospital, I left my car and made my way to the appropriate floor. I wondered if this would be a quick call, leaving time for garage sales.

Two hours later as I left the hospital, I could barely see through tears of gratitude. The visit had turned into an exchange of loving words and signs as my parishioner and I realized that this might be the last opportunity to express our affection. My heart was so full I thought it would burst. As I drove home, the garage sales that earlier had called to me so loudly, were now strangely silent, as if realizing that the filling of emptiness they promised earlier couldn't hold a candle to the fullness I now contained.

That day was a powerful reminder that when we find in relationships the completeness we seek, we no longer hunger for things. Not understanding that, we think that the buying of this or that thing will make us happy, but all we receive in exchange for our hard-earned money is a temporary high, followed by a predictable low. We will never have enough things to fulfill our desires because our desires are endless - that's just the way we are.

I remember a Finance Committee meeting at which I explained why people don't give more money to the Church they love. "If you don't pay your electric bill," I explained, "they turn off your power. If you don't pay your water bill, they turn off your water. But if you don't pay your Church pledge, nothing bad happens." Someone replied "but nothing good happens either."

We make good things happen in the lives of others when we share our money with the Church. Most of us are convinced we give a lot, but if we do the math, we may discover that we're giving not the Biblical tithe of 10%, not a half-tithe of 5%, but something closer to 1-2%. One pastor recalls astonishment at discovering that the four-digit annual offering the pastor was proudly giving was actually revealed to be 2% of the pastor's income.

As each of us thinks about the monetary support we are giving to Grace UMC for the 2012 year, we would do well to do the math. Each of us can simply divide the amount we give annually by our yearly income. The result is the percentage of our income we give to the Church.

When we dedicate a portion of our income, not for the purchase of things for ourselves, but for services for others, we honor God's intentions. May each of us support not only our private dreams but God's dream of peace with justice for all.

Faithfully,

Pastor Judi



SOUP SALE

On October 14th we will be having a soup sale to support the Youth Group. We are looking for donations of bread, brownies, and of course, soup! If you can help, please contact Barbara Coryell directly or e-mail her at rbcoryell@yahoo.com.

YOUTH GROUP TO HOST HALLOWEEN PARTY

On Saturday, October 27th the Youth Group will be hosting a Halloween party. There will be pizza, crafts, donut on a string, guessing game (candy in a jar), cookie decorating, a gift bag for all children, and they are planning a haunted hallway.

Anyone willing to help or donate items, please see Barbara Coryell or e-mail her at rbcoryell@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Oct. 7th - Bible Event: The Hebrew slaves, having escaped from Egypt, wander in the wilderness
Emphasis: God is with us in the midst of change
Craft: Cindy Bliss and "If it wasn't for change there would be no butterflies"

Oct 14th - Bible Event: Moses receives the Ten Commandments from God
Emphasis: God provides guidance
Craft: Wanda Whitney and 10 Commandment Tablets

Oct 21st - Bible Event: The Hebrew people build a home for God
Emphasis: God's people worship and houses of worship remind people of God
Craft: Sue Eccleston and Cross-making

Oct 28th - Bible Event: God chooses Joshua to lead the Hebrew people
Emphasis: Good leaders know everyone is important
Craft: Stephanie Canahan and Pumpkin Bread Baking



You probably already know that our church has a Facebook page, but did you know that the Book Nook and the Bargain Shed have pages, too? You can find them at Booknook at Grace United Methodist Church and Bargainshed at Grace United Methodist Church.

This is a place for us to share things going on at church and sales happening at the Bargain Shed and Book Nook. If

you are looking for a specific book you can post it there. If you'd like to know more about this, or set up an account (you can use a pseudo name), see Barbara Coryell or e-mail her at rbcoryell@yahoo.com.

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

By the time this newsletter is distributed, the Fall Fair will have come and gone. As always, we at the Bargain Shed are preparing during the week prior to the Fair by rearranging, sorting, unpacking and decorating. Donations have been very generous recently, and we are so thankful.

A big **THANK YOU** also goes out to all the workers who help in this huge undertaking. We look forward to meeting customers amid our new seasonal décor. Please stop in!

NOTE: Sales for the Bargain Shed through September 23rd are **\$4,854!** Funds raised by the Book Nook through the same time period are **\$8,336!**

LAST CHANCE!

Any lost and found items that are not picked up by October 15th will be considered donations to the Bargain

Shed. Please stop by coat room next to the office and see if any of these items belong to you.



The Bell Choir will be having a general meeting on October 9th at 6:30pm to make plans for the group's practice dates and times. Bell ringers so far include Fran Lobdell, Barbara, Rodger, and Trey Coryell, and Sue Eccleston. More people are needed and welcome.

THANK YOU!

Sincere appreciation to Beth Babcock and Eleanor Moon...Beth took down and washed the floor-to-ceiling drapes in the Lounge; Eleanor repaired them; and then Beth rehung them. Great job ladies for volunteering to tackle this long overdue project!

A heartfelt thank you is being sent out to Bill Craven for his donation of a large tent to Grace UMC. The Fall Fair and any other outdoor events held by our church certainly welcome this useful gift. It will help bring shelter from the rain, shade

from the hot summer sun, and even warm fellowship among us and our neighbors!

ADULT CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

The senior choir is in desperate need of members...particularly women. If you have a love of singing, please consider joining the choir. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7-8:15 for rehearsals and sing an anthem every Sunday. Not only do we practice music and lift our praises to God, but we have a lot of fun too! All are welcome. Please contact Lisa D'Arcangelis at 567-3620 with any questions or just show up Thursday evening.

NIGHTINGALES PRACTICE

Beginning Thursday, October 18th, the Nightingales will resume their practice schedule on every other Thursday from 6:15 – 7:00pm in the downstairs choir room. Please encourage your youngster to join this group and join in the fun, faith, and fellowship while gaining the experience of being in front of a group.

LOOKING AHEAD

The RCS Council of Churches is sponsoring a live nativity here at Grace UMC on December 23rd at 4:00. It is

being coordinated by Barbara Coryell and she is looking for volunteers to participate. More information will be following, but if you'd like to get involved, contact Barbara directly, or e-mail her at rbcoryell@yahoo.com.



Wishing the best to all those who will be celebrating in the month of October:

- 3 Dashanna Siebold
- 5 Blake & Christine Frazee
- 8 Jesse Mancini
- 8 Barbara Coryell
- 9 Juliann Banahan
- 9 Ken (Jake) Bliss
- 11 Ken & Heather Meisner
- 12 Donna Newton
- 12 Rick & Kate Robertson
- 13 Don & Eleanor Moon
- 18 Carissa Van Alstyne
- 23 Hazel Lambert
- 25 Austin Bean
- 26 Danielle Lambert
- 27 Eleanor Moon
- 29 Max Johnson
- 29 Sam Robertson

Prayer Chain



Grace UMC has a group of people who have volunteered to pray not only for those raised up in our church service each week, but also for those brought to our attention by a more private phone call. If you'd like to be part of this group and help make a difference, please contact Beth Spoor.

EVANGELISM NEWS

On October 21st the Evangelism Committee will be distributing United Methodist "RETHINK CHURCH" door hangers in the community. We invite the congregation to get involved... weather permitting, of course. Remember 80% of people invited to church by a friend will say "yes" – they just have to be asked. For more information about sharing your faith, please go to 10thousanddoors.org or visit:

<http://www.rethinkchurch.org/>



Warm

HARVEST COBBLER

These fall flavors will remind you of all the season's goodness.

What you need:

- An adult to help



Fruit mixture

- 4 cups apples and/or pears (peeled, cored and diced)
- 2 cups fresh cranberries, halved
- ¼ cup dried cranberries
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 3 Tablespoons cornstarch

Crumble topping

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup butter

What you do:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 8" or 9" baking dish.
2. Prepare fruit mixture and place in baking dish.
3. In another bowl, combine dry ingredients. Add in cut butter until it's a crumbly texture. Sprinkle over fruit mixture.
4. Bake for 45-50 minutes or until fruit juices bubble and topping is browned.
5. Optional: Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

IF MONEY COULD TALK

At the end of their lives, a 100-dollar bill, a 20-dollar bill and a one-dollar bill met at the shredder. The 100 said, "I've seen the whole world. Why, I've been on cruises in the Caribbean, safaris in Africa and vacations in Europe."

The 20 said, "I haven't done quite as well, but I've been to Atlantic City, Disneyland and Starbucks." They both turned to the one-dollar bill and asked, "How about you?"

Not wanting to be outdone, the one-dollar bill said, "I've seen the whole country, as well. I've been from church to church to church ..."

Then the 100 asked, "What's a church?"



The following letter from the RCS Association of Churches explains in detail the upcoming talent fest to support the scholarship fund for high school seniors. Pastor Judi will fill out the referenced forms when you notify her of your intent to perform. The deadline for notifying Pastor Judi is Sunday, October 14th. There will be a rehearsal on Sunday, October 21st at 3pm at the Congregational Christian Church.

RCS
(Ravena - Coeymans - Selkirk)
**Association of
Churches**


*Working Together
To Provide
Ecumenical Services
To the
RCS Community*

**Affiliated Churches and
Organizations**

*Abounding Love Christian
Fellowship*

Church of St. Patrick

*Congregational Christian
United Church of Christ*

*First Reformed Church of
Bethlehem*

Grace Covenant Church

*Grace United Methodist
Church*

*New Baltimore Reformed
Church*

Ravena Evangelical Church

*Riverview Missionary Baptist
Church*

*South Bethlehem United
Methodist Church*

*Trinity United Methodist
Church*

Church Women United

Boy Scouts Troop 67

**RCS Area Food Pantries and
Distribution Programs:**

- *Brown Bag-It Project*
- *Matthew Project*
- *Abounding Love Christian Fellowship*
- *Church of St. Patrick*
- *First Reformed Church of Bethlehem*
- *South Bethlehem United Methodist Church*

Dear Community Member:

The RCS Association of Churches is sponsoring an ***Ecumenical Talent Fest*** to support the scholarship fund for area high school seniors. We look forward to showcasing talent in the RCS area.

The Talent Fest is being held Friday, October 26, 2012 at 6 PM at the Congregational Christian Church - UCC. We are inviting interested people of all ages to share their talent to support the scholarship program. Talent can be of all forms: Instrumental, Vocal, Poetry, Liturgical Dance, and Art Work displays etc.

The church has a Bose music system with mikes, a sound board, and an in-focus projection system should music or lyrics be displayed. We also have a grand piano and organ. We are asking that performances to respect the church sanctuary by refraining from profanity or contentious content. Art work will be displayed in fellowship Hall.

Please complete the enclosed form and either email it to me or send it to the address on the form by September 20. We will host 2 rehearsals for the event which will be announced later.

We look forward to working with you on this exciting event. We hope to make this an annual event. Thank you for your support of the scholarship fund.

Yours in Christ,

Deb Shave, Chair

Contact: Deb Shave damakely1@aol.com 518-669-5914

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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 **November** issue of *The Messenger* is **October 21st**. Please send or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**