



The Messenger

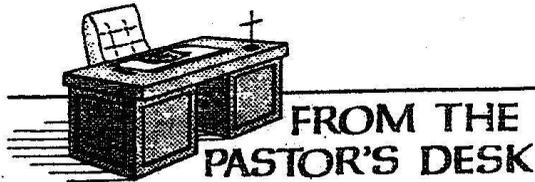
Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



November 2012

Dear Friends,

When I arrived here a little over a year ago, the parking lot had been recently resurfaced, and its cost had been borne by a generous loan from an anonymous donor. There is still a balance of a little over \$10,000 on that loan, and the Trustees at our church are eager to see that bill retired. They have initiated a Loan Repayment Drive that asks 50 people to pledge \$20 per month for the next year so that the loan will be paid up in a year's time.

There will be a large poster in Fellowship Hall that will be divided into 50 squares, and every time a pledge is made, another square will be filled in. What a joy it will be to see the squares completely filled and know that we are well on our way to retiring that loan.

Those willing to pledge \$20 per month for one year, starting November 1st to benefit the parking lot fund, please contact Grace UMC Trustee Chair, Ken Bliss at 756-3663 (h), 487-1145 (cell phone or text), or e-mail kmcdbliss1@aol.com.

I remember sitting in the pew with my 7-year-old daughter at an ecumenical service many years ago. When the time for the offering arrived, I reached in my purse, and as the offering plate came to us I pulled out a ten dollar bill and started to put it in the plate.

Suddenly, my daughter grabbed my hand and said "Don't do that - you'll lose your money!"

The alarm in her eyes interested me, even as I placed my offering in the plate. The service continued, but my mind remained focused on her words. I realized that of all the times I have felt like I've lost money, I have never felt that way when I've given to the Church.

We all know the sinking feeling when we've lost money. Maybe we ordered something over the internet, but when it came it wasn't what we wanted. Perhaps we bought a beloved child a desperately-wanted (and expensive!) toy, but in no time it was broken.

Or it could be that we spent our hard-earned money on new clothes that looked old after two washings. Whatever the case, it does not feel good to lose money.

But money given to the Church provides Christian ministry in Ravenna, cleans up after natural disasters in Louisiana, educates children in the Christian faith in Kentucky, provides medicine to AIDS victims in Africa, and now will repay the generous person whose timely loan made the parking lot surface possible. It is money well-spent that invests in the things of God. Money invested in God provides light in darkness and life in the midst of death.

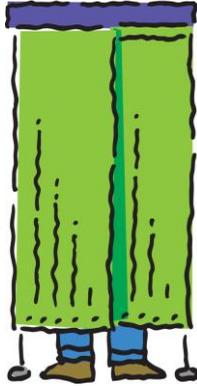
November is the month for Thanksgiving when we are encouraged to thank God for all our daily blessings that we often take for granted. One concrete way to say "Thank you" is to support the things that encourage goodness. That is what the Church does.

May God's goodness be reflected in our living and in our giving.

Happy Thanks Giving,

Pastor Judi





ANNUAL ELECTION DAY BAKED HAM

Tuesday, November 6th is Election Day and with that comes our annual baked ham. We'll be serving from 11am until sold out, with takeouts available throughout the day.

The menu will include baked ham, scalloped tomatoes, scalloped potatoes, salad, rolls, and brownies.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time to lend a hand to this yearly fundraiser that all our neighbors have come to ask about and look forward to.

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS

Pastor Judi is pleased to announce that the 2012 Youth Confirmation Class will take place at 6pm on each of the Sunday evenings in November and

December. Youth in middle school and above are eligible to attend the class which culminates with the students deciding whether or not to join the Church at the end of December.

Wanda Whitney will be contacting parents and guardians of the confirmands to insure the presence of another adult at each of the classes, in keeping with our Safe Sanctuaries policy.

For more information or to register a member of your family please call Pastor Judi at 756-6689.

NOVEMBER IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nov. 4th – *Bible Event:* Rahab welcomes the Hebrew people
Theme: God works through welcoming people

Craft Rotation: Decorating Thanksgiving Donation Bags w/Edna Rominger

Drama Rotation: Christmas Pageant rehearsal w/ Marlene McTigue and Barbara Bullock

Nov. 11th – *Bible Event:* The Hebrew people settle and make a monument to God
Theme: Special things can remind us of God.

Craft Rotation: Stone-making w/
Peggy Sherman

Drama Rotation: Christmas Pageant
rehearsal w/Barbara Bullock

Nov. 18th – *Bible Event:* The people
thanked God for giving them a home
Theme: God's people remember to say
"Thank You" to God.

Craft Rotation: Thanksgiving Trees
w/Sue Eccleston

Drama Rotation: Christmas Pageant
rehearsal w/Marlene McTigue and
Barbara Bullock

Nov. 25th – *Bible Event:* Joshua tells
the Hebrew people to choose to serve
God

Theme: We can choose to serve God
Craft Rotation: "I Choose God"
plaques w/Cindy Bliss

Drama Rotation: Christmas Pageant
rehearsal w/Marlene McTigue and
Barbara Bullock

A BIG THANK YOU!

The Youth Group would like to extend
a big thank you to everyone who
supported the recent Soup Sale. If you
missed it, you really lost out on a great
lunch. Eight different soups were
offered along with bread and brownies.
The lunch raised **\$257** for our Youth
Group. Thanks to everyone who

participated...cooks, bakers and diners
alike. We hope you enjoyed it!

FRESH HAM DINNER

The annual fresh ham dinner sold 90
dinners and brought in \$1,034! Left-
overs were sold the next day after
Church and an additional \$41 was
taken in. The total profit will be
announced once all of the bills have
come in.

Thank you to all who supported and
helped! *Whenever* we host these
dinners, please join us for a day or
evening of fellowship whether it be to
dine, help, or dine *and* help!

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

During our final week of this 2012
year, the Bargain Shed will have a
\$3/Bag Sale on all items (excluding
Christmas items). The sale will be
during regular hours on:

Tues., Nov. 13

Thurs., Nov. 15

Sat., Nov. 17

Our last day for the season is
November 17th.

Time is growing short...come see all
the great things we have in the shop.

NOTE: Sales for the Bargain Shed through October 21st are **\$5,671!**

THANK YOU!

The Book Nook is very appreciative of Wanda and Alan Whitney for organizing the storage room! Funds raised by the Book Nook through October 21st were **\$8,816!** Awesome!



Live NATIVITY

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.

FALL FAIR UPDATE **From Ken Bliss**

Where to start? Well, we pulled it off! After much trepidation, preparation, blood, sweat (no tears!), and hard work, our Congregation has produced a very successful 2012 Fall Fair! With some funds still outstanding, such as bids on dinners, some furniture sales, we should realize a net profit close to **\$5,000**. I cannot list all those I wish to thank, because I know I'll forget someone, and that's not fair to all who have been so instrumental in this group effort. All our usual interest areas were huge successes. The farmer's market, pies & candy, silent auction, Book Nook, Bargain Shed, and crafts all did extremely well. Each area was headed by one or two persons, but was assisted by many of our parishioners. We had a variety of vendors, who by most reports did well also, and expressed interest in returning next year.

Equally important were all those that helped plan, advertise, clean, and assist in any way possible, whenever possible. The transition from the huge book sale the month before, took many willing pairs of hands slews of hours of work, sorting, boxing and moving, so that the Fellowship Hall would be ready in time, and still be organized for Joy and her crew to do so well. There were important contributions made... arranging for Dean Davis to give his

presentation of reptiles and other creatures, to a very interested audience. Dean, by the way, volunteered to do a second show, without an additional charge and both shows were big hits with the kids and the adults. Brian Melick did a great job with his music instrument-building class, enjoyed by the participants and the on-lookers. The prep work was done by a small group of volunteers, collecting materials, cutting to size, then organizing into packages.

Before I forget, I want to thank all the contributors of furniture, household items, and the sundry of items the Bargain Shed received. Personal thanks go out to my friends and Brothers from the Masonic Child I.D. program, who gave of their time to help keep our children safer. I ALMOST did forget our breakfast & lunch cafe crew, who worked diligently to keep all our guests and volunteers well nourished. I know it was a long day for them, as well as all the preparation, grocery shopping, and time spent running around. To James June, who arranged for the Volunteer Fire Company come to the Fair, a big thank you for all you did. And a BIG THANK YOU to Pastor Judi, my guide, advisor, motivator and the members of the Fall Fair Committee, who all did the major portion of planning and execution of the master plan. And, if I want to survive another day on Earth, I thank

my wife Cindy, for all she did, step by step, helping me.

All this, I did not do! You, the Congregation, as volunteers, donors, contributors and attendees/ participants, did this! I thank you all!

**In addition to Ken's report on the Fall Fair, the following is a breakdown of how well each of the booths did:

Baked Goods/Candy....\$955
Harvest....\$936
Furniture....\$473
Bargain Shed....\$500
Books....\$352
Crafts....\$281
Kitchen....\$556
Talent Auction....\$442
Vendors....\$220
Watkins....\$37

Great Job!

SPECIAL NOTICE

All Sunday School meetings will be after worship on the first Sunday of each month, and all Trustee meetings will be after worship on the third Sunday of each month.

Happy Birthday!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

- 3 Devonna Quinn
- 3 William Haslett
- 4 JoAnne Burrill
- 8 Andrew Ginder
- 9 Liz Spence
- 11 Cindy Bliss
- 11 Jessica Ingraham
- 16 Alice Ross
- 16 Pastor Judi
- 18 Jay Ingraham
- 20 Chris Ingraham

A FORMULA FOR KINGDOM SUCCESS

IBM founder Thomas Watson said the formula to success is to double one's failure rate because failure is the best teacher.

Jesus tells of a businessman who entrusted his money with servants. One

servant hid the funds, fearing that investment might bring loss rather than gain. On learning this, the businessman grew angry.

God calls us to take risks for his sake. Yet we often keep silent about the gospel, fearing that others won't believe us. We stick with familiar congregational fellowship instead of venturing into the uncertainty of community service.

When taking risks for God appears to result in failure, two things are surely at play: We have the opportunity to learn from our experience, discovering new ways to witness and grow stronger in faith. Second, we can trust God to tend the seeds we've planted; they'll sprout in due time, whether or not we see it.

FOR ALL OF THESE (Thanksgiving)

*Hands to hold when times are tough;
Those who give, so there's enough;
Softened hearts that once were rough;
For all of these, Lord, we praise Thee.*

*Tears You save each time we cry;
Friends who mourn when tears run
dry;*

*Comfort when we ask You, "Why?"
For all of these, Lord, we praise Thee.*

*Boundless joy, amazing love;
Endless mercy from above;
Bride of Christ that I'm part of;
For all of these, Lord, we praise Thee.*

*Perfect peace, a sheltered place;
Timely words, redeeming grace;
Strength from You to run the race;
For all of these, Lord, we praise Thee.*

*Gifts from God, so freely given;
Just a little taste of heaven;
Depth of love we scarcely fathom;
For all of these, Lord, we praise Thee.*
- By Lisa DeVinney

“Blessed are those who can give
without remembering and take without
forgetting.”

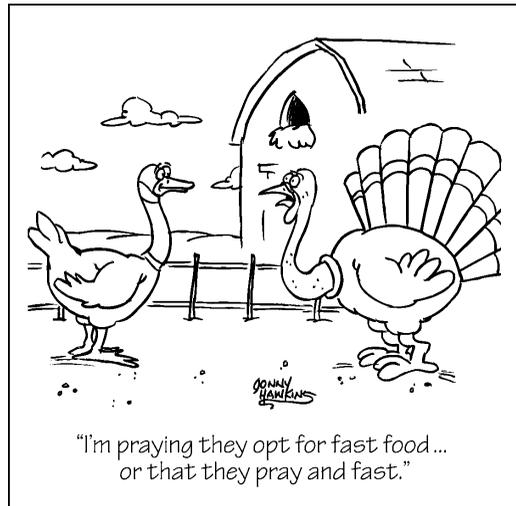
—Elizabeth Bibesco

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Soon the Advent season will be upon us. In an effort to make it easier for any visitors to fellowship with members of the congregation, and help them to remember our names, the Evangelism

Committee will be asking church members to wear a supplied name tag during Church and fellowship time during the Advent season. We can all help to make newcomers feel welcome in our presence and just maybe, if they're seeking a church to call their own, they'll be encouraged to join *our* Church.

The letter at the opposite page is a testimony to the generosity of this congregation to assist children in need of school supplies.





Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Albany County
CHOICES Program
Faith Plaza, Route 9W
Ravena, NY 12143
t. 518.756.8650
f. 518.756.3988

September 11, 2012

Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, New York 12143

ATT: Phyllis Shook
Chairperson – Evangelism

Dear Phyllis & Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for once again remembering the CHOICES Program. I am sure you are well aware of the need in our community during these trying economic times. By providing these school supplies, you have helped some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Imagine being the only one in your class without new school supplies. Your generosity has helped to avoid this situation for many of our children.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and generosity. Continued success in your charitable efforts and a special thank you to Phyllis for coordinating the entire event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "THOMAS E. DOLAN". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

THOMAS E. DOLAN
Administrator

TED:mme

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 **December** issue of *The Messenger* is **November 18th**. Please send or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**