



# *The Messenger*

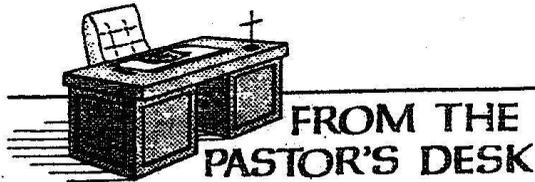
## Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



**March 2013**

Dear Friends,

We began our observance of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 13th, with a potluck supper and service around the fireplace. On Sunday mornings during Lent we have words and prayers centered around the extinguishing of a Lenten candle. The Church has provided Lenten folders for the use of its members. On Saturday morning, March 23rd, the church will have its Pre-Holy Week Clean-Up from 9-Noon (with wings and pizza as an incentive to volunteers.)

The final week of Lent begins with our Palm/Passion Sunday service on March 24th when palm branches will be distributed. On the following Thursday we will once again gather for a 6pm potluck supper for Maundy Thursday and celebrate the Last Supper around the tables in Fellowship Hall, concluding with the Service of Tenebrae (Darkness) during which candles are extinguished as Scripture passages focused on Jesus' arrest and crucifixion are read. We leave the service in darkness.

The following day is Good Friday, the day on which Jesus died. We will observe that evening with a 6pm pizza dinner and 7pm video of His life.

Two days later is Easter Sunday, the holiest of all the days in the Christian calendar. Lent's slow meditative time is over, and with special music and high energy we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

During March there are many other things we could be doing, of course, but as Christians we are called to lead distinctive lives that include worship of God, service to others, and the celebration of holy days like Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost. When we obey their summons, we discover not just one more thing we're forced to do, but a blessed change in our schedules that allows God to break in. Our emphasis changes from making a living to celebrating the meaning of our lives.

May your Lenten observance lead you to a Holy Easter.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Judi*



## INFO FROM THE TRUSTEES

Recently the Church received an anonymous donation, initially designated to go toward paying off the outstanding debt of paving part of the parking lot. However, the Finance Committee has notified the Pastor and the Trustees that, due to two oil deliveries (1,500 gallons) and two months billing from Conference (sent as one bill), the Church would not be able to meet its financial obligations (about \$9,000) without some assistance.

The anonymous donor contacted Rodger Coryell and stated that the donation should go to the greatest need; in this case, covering our debts with Persico's and to Conference. The Finance Committee, after an in-depth discussion, suggested to the Trustees that the Church should pay the debts to Persico's and Conference, before paying off the parking lot debt. This was brought before the Trustees, and again after thorough discussion, we decided to proceed as suggested by the Finance Committee.

We will also be getting estimates for completing the repaving of the parking lot and driveway. Your continued support of the Church and the parking lot fund is greatly appreciated. We

hope that you will understand why this decision was made.

*Respectfully,  
Ken Bliss  
President of the Trustees*

## INSIDE CLEANING

The Trustees have scheduled an inside clean-up of the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, on Saturday, March 23, 2013, from 9AM to 12 Noon. We will need help washing windows, washing down the pews, vacuuming the carpets, window sills, and the library in the Narthex. The floors in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will need to be washed as well. For all those that participate, there will be pizza, chicken wings, soft drinks, coffee and tea will be provided free of charge. Please come out to assist in sprucing up the Church for Palm Sunday and Easter.

## BAPTISM

Congratulations to Danielle Lambert and Brandon Whiting on the baptism of their daughter, Kendall Marie Whiting. May God bless Kendall all the days of her life.



## MARCH IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month's emphasis is on the stories of Holy Week and Easter.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Jesus washes feet

*Hands-On Rotation:* Sandal making with Barbara Coryell (with supplies donated by Wanda Whitney)

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** – Jesus celebrates the Passover meal

*Hands-On Rotation:* Exploring Passover items with Edna Rominger

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** – Jesus prays in the garden

*Hands-On Rotation:* Craft with Sue Eccleston

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** – Palm Sunday

*Hands-On Rotation:* Palm cross making with Dotty Backlund and Fran Lobdell

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** – Easter

*Hands-On Rotation:* Easter Egg Hunt

## EASTER IS TIMELESS

Easter is a moveable feast, falling any time between March 22 and April 25 on the Gregorian calendar. At a meeting of bishops in 325 A.D., Easter Sunday was set as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern hemisphere's vernal equinox. (Though the equinox can fall on March 19, 20 or 21, the church fixed March 21 as this date.)

Over the years, branches of the church differed on the precise date for Easter, finally reaching agreement in the late 700s. Since 1582, however, when the Western Church adopted the Gregorian calendar while the Eastern Church retained the Julian one, the timing of Easter has sometimes varied between the two.

Such computations are interesting but pale in light of the ultimate assurance that for Christians, every day is truly Easter. Christ's tomb is empty! Jesus defeated death! Whenever we worship, we celebrate resurrection. Date-bound by earthly calendars, the Feast of the Resurrection, by heaven's rendering, is eternal.



When Jesus was crucified, over what time period did darkness cover the earth?

- A. 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- B. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- C. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- D. 12 noon to 3 p.m.

*Answer: D (See Mark 15:33.)*

## EVANGELISM NEWS

Now that we've received permanent name tags, we're looking for a creative way to store them. This work-in-progress has made our Committee realize that the table in the Narthex is not the ideal place for storage because when we fellowship with newcomers and visitors we want to have our name tags on in Fellowship Hall to aid them. Also, the table in the Narthex is needed for other purposes at various times.

If you have an idea to make it easy for individuals to find their tag as well as to prevent the tags from getting tangled, please feel free to share it with Phyllis Shook.

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Don't forget to wear your cross of nails during Lent. If you didn't get one, we have plenty more available. This is an easy way to share the Easter story with others when they inquire about your necklace. Feel free to give it to the admirer and we will replace yours the next Sunday.



## THE JESUS FILM

For several years, the Evangelism Committee has presented The JESUS Film on a Friday during Lent. This year

the film and a pizza dinner will be held on Good Friday, March 29th. Dinner at 6pm. Movie at 7pm.

This movie was filmed on location at 200 sites in the Holy Land. It is the definitive version of the life of Jesus, having been translated into more languages than any film in history. More than one billion people worldwide have viewed it in their native language. Virtually every word spoken by Jesus was taken from the Gospel of Luke.

We invite you to join us (and bring a friend) for this inspiring film and pray it will prepare your heart for the joy of Easter morning. There will also be a children's version of the film shown in the lounge.

For more information about The JESUS Film Project, please visit: [www.jesusfilm.org](http://www.jesusfilm.org)

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy birthday and anniversary wishes go out to our friends who will be celebrating in March:

13 Dotty Backlund  
14 Sandy Racey

16 Logan Moss  
19 Vera Mahnken  
20 Erick Mattick  
20 David Sugrue  
21 Ray & Jan Bradshaw  
21 Emily Buckley-Crist  
27 Joseph Bliss  
29 James June



## ACOUSTIC DOORWAYS REMINDER

## BOOK NOOK UPDATE

Don't forget, the Spring HUGE Book Sale and mini-rummage sale will be held Thursday through Saturday, March 14, 15 and 16. We will be working all week 9AM–3PM and 6–8PM. On Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> we can REALLY use help setting up tables and bringing books upstairs.

Hours for the sale are as follows:

Thursday – 6–8PM

Friday – 9AM–3PM

Saturday – 9AM–3PM

YTD sales for the Book Nook are \$700 already! We're off to a great start in 2013.

## 2012 TAX RECEIPTS

Please contact Don Moon in person or call him at 756-6920 if you would like a receipt for your 2012 contributions to the General Fund.

Once again, we will be hosting one of The Acoustic Doorways' concerts. Please join us at 7:30pm on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for an evening of entertainment featuring Big Joe Fitz & the Low-Fi's with Brian Melick.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$5. Refreshments will be served during intermission. **Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated.** Feel free to call Jay Ingraham at 756-6618 with any questions.



## ATTENTION GARDNERS!

The RCS Association of Churches is considering a community garden behind St. Patrick's Church this spring and would like to know who is interested in having a plot there. If you are, please advise Pastor Judi.

## BARGAIN SHED TO OPEN APRIL 13

Just a gentle reminder that the Bargain Shed will be opening for the 2013 season on Saturday, April 13. During the week leading up to that Saturday, we will be accepting donations any time the staff is working. Hours for drop-offs will be listed in the April newsletter.

Once again, we welcome your donations **but cannot accept TVs or computers.** Small furniture pieces are always welcome.

If you are interested in helping out this year, please see Edna Rominger or call her at 966-8740.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

The Trustees are planning an outdoor clean-up day on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to 1PM. Help will be needed and greatly appreciated to prune hedges at the church & parsonage, clean the church flower-beds, and hedge removal from around the church foundation. Many hands make light work. If you are able, please plan to join us in this important project.



## A SIGN OF SPRING

In *The Story of the Easter Robin* (Zonderkidz), Dandi Daley Mackall retells an old Pennsylvania Dutch tale of the robin's compassion as he witnessed Jesus' death.

On Good Friday, a plain brown robin flying over Jerusalem was curious about the "nest" atop Jesus' head. When the bird realized it was a crown of thorns, he tried to dislodge it. As the robin pulled out a long thorn from Jesus' forehead, a drop of blood landed on the bird's breast, staining it red. Now the robin's red breast is a symbol of Jesus' loving sacrifice, and the robin's early-spring song is a reminder of Jesus' joyful resurrection.



## WITH SYMPATHY

The entire congregation sends deepest sympathies to Ray and Bridget Hotaling as they mourn the loss of Ray's dear mother, Thressa on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Our thoughts and prayers are with Thressa's family.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER RESCHEDULED

Mark your calendars! The snowed-out Spaghetti Dinner we had planned for February has been rescheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It takes many hands to make these dinners a success. Please see Ginny Pearson if you can help out in any way.

## KEEP ON BELIEVING

Through major life challenges, Christian singer-songwriter Jeremy Camp has learned to walk by faith and cling to his hope in Christ. While he was growing up, Camp's family (which includes a brother with Down syndrome) struggled with poverty. When Camp was just 23, his wife of several months died of cancer.

The first song Camp wrote after her death was the chart-topper "I Still Believe." In the chorus, he sings:

*I still believe in Your faithfulness  
I still believe in Your truth  
I still believe in Your holy word  
even when I don't see, I still believe.*

Camp says trusting in God during life's valleys takes lots of courage. "You can say, 'All right, Lord, I don't get it, but I'm going to trust you,' and go to the only One [who] offers life and hope and peace and joy."





# PUZZLE

## Praise him!

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, a large crowd cheered for him. Complete this puzzle to discover what they used (also see John 12:13).

**Directions:** In the number grid below, draw lines by starting with the first number in each list and stopping at the last.

122-112-116-102-112

112-68-102

102-107-92-102

102-47-92

92-97-82-92

92-37-82

22-42-44-32-9-42

42-55-52-66-62-77-72

42-19-52-18-62-17-72

82-27-72-87-82

82-42

•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Start 	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132

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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 **April** issue of *The Messenger* is **March 24<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**