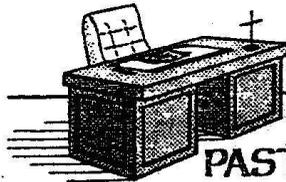




The Messenger
Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



**FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK**

April 2013

Dear Friends,

It is officially Spring – that wonderful time of renewal, and I'm so pleased that our Board of Trustees, under the chairmanship of Ken Bliss, is leading the church in some anticipated renewal of our church building and grounds. The Trustees have generated a list of proposed projects and have prioritized them in the following way:

1. Address the leaking above and beneath the front door sills in the Sanctuary (In-house volunteer work crew; cost to be determined)
2. Seal the portion of the parking lot that was recently paved, and pave the remainder of the parking lot and driveway. (Hired; cost to be determined)
3. Replace the 50-year-old pew cushions (In-house app. \$3,000 **or** hired, \$7,000)
4. Insulate the two outside walls of Fellowship Hall (In-house work crew under direction of volunteer Jay Ingraham with volunteer work crew; \$1,166.)
5. Install electronic sign for the church (Hired, total replacement \$21,000 **or** electronic section attached to bottom of current sign; \$8,000)
6. Sanctuary sound system (Hired; \$13,881)

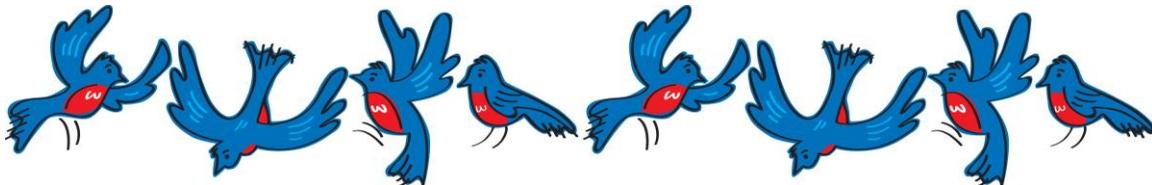
7. Covered portico for Fellowship Hall entrance (In-house; cost to be determined)

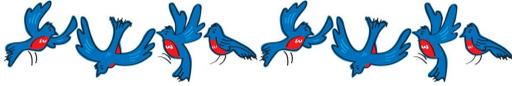
I'm excited, as well, that the Administrative Council, under the chairmanship of Jay Ingraham, has affirmed the work of the Trustees, and members of the Council have also suggested ceiling fans in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers have emerged, and ideas are percolating regarding making these plans a reality. Anyone who would like to suggest fund-raising ideas is encouraged to speak to Ken, Jay, or Pastor Judi.

It is exciting to be part of a church that is proactive in caring for the building that has been provided for our ministry needs. It is refreshing to live in the midst of renewal.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Judi





BARGAIN SHED NEWS

Hooray!!!! The Bargain Shed will be **opening on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.** We are looking forward to serving our Church and community again this year.

There have been some staffing changes and we are in need of someone who could work Saturday mornings (be it one Saturday a month or each week of the month). If you are available, please see Edna Rominger or call her at 966-8740.

On Saturday, April 6 from 9-12 noon we will be “sprucing up the Shed” – washing windows, dusting, vacuuming, etc. Then on Monday, April 8 we will start to arrange displays. The hours for workers are:

Monday - 9-3
Tuesday - 12:30-3:30
Wednesday- 9-3
Thursday - 5-8
Friday - 9-?
Saturday **OPENING DAY!**

If you can spare any time on any of those days, please join us. We would be thrilled to have you.

Also, whenever someone is at the Shed, items may be dropped off and we will welcome them gladly. Just a reminder...we do **not** accept TVs or computers. And if items could be clean and in good working order it would be appreciated.

There will also be a bake sale on opening day. If you can contribute any “goodies” to the sale, please see Eleanor Moon.

As always, the Book Nook will be open as well that morning.

APRIL IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month's emphasis is on the stories of New Testament people whose lives were transformed by Jesus Christ.

April 7th – *Hands-On Rotation:*
Chrysalis/butterfly making w/ Wanda Whitney

April 14th – *Hands-On Rotation:*
Change activity w/Sue Eccleston

April 21st – *Hands-On Rotation:*
Change activity (pancake making) w/Christine Frazee

April 28th – *Hands-On Rotation:*
Change activity (instant pudding & whipped cream) w/Eleanor Moon



For our April outreach project, the Sunday School will be collecting shoes for the Soles4Souls project. (If you'd like more info about it, the website is www.giveshoes.org.)

"Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes from warehouses of footwear companies and closets of people like you. We distribute these shoes free of charge to people in need to 125 different countries around the world."

They will accept gently worn, clean shoes (no mud) with solid soles and laces if applicable. They'll take any type of footwear (sneakers, flip flops, dress shoes, pumps, boots, etc.). Please tie the pairs of shoes together with the laces or rubber band them in pairs.

We will have a plastic tub outside the church office to collect the shoes and will accept them until the end of April. The Sunday School will cover the cost of shipping (about \$1 per pair) but will gladly accept monetary donations to help offset shipping costs if you don't have any shoes to donate but would like to help.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The youth group made over \$100 from their chocolate Easter candy sale.

Thank you to everyone for supporting them and a special thank you to Pastor Judi, Wanda Whitney, Rick Robertson and Janet Mantynen for their help in making the chocolates.

FISHER HOUSE BOTTLE DRIVE

\$64 worth of bottles were donated to the Sunday School's March outreach. (That's a LOT of bottles!) The Sunday School will add additional monies to make the donation to Fisher House an even \$100.

Thanks to all who donated and special thanks to Phyllis Shook for depositing the first half of all these bottles.

CHICKEN BBQ & SPAGHETTI DINNER

Our March 21st chicken bbq raised \$238! And a little later in the month, the spaghetti dinner was held on March 23rd. 65 tickets were sold and over \$400 was made! (This may not take into consideration all bills on the dinner.) Many thanks to Ginny Pearson for coordinating these fund raisers and to all who participated in *any* capacity!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

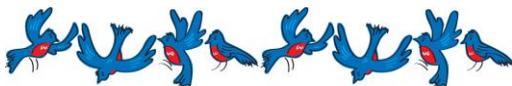


Happy birthday to our friends who will be celebrating in April:

- 5 Blake Frazee
- 7 Victoria Youmans
- 8 Logan Lambert
- 9 Matt Baumbach
- 10 Caelin Gordon-Stacey
- 17 Aaron June
- 19 Grace Buckley-Crist
- 26 Katie Beswick
- 27 Ann Coryell
- 30 Barbara Lisa
- 30 Sidney Young

BOOK NOOK UPDATE

Sales for the Book Nook through March 24th are \$3,828! Quite a jump from the \$700 YTD amount reported last month thanks to the Huge Book Sale held mid-March. Bravo to all the helping hands and of course, to Joy Mayo who heads up this ministry!!



SHARING YOUR STORIES

Lots of you passed your cross of nails necklaces on to others...so many in fact, that we had to reorder...twice! How wonderful if just one of the recipients had a life-changing experience by the sharing of one of those Easter crosses! Listen to what was said:

“Gave one to my sister-in-law when she noticed it.

“Gave one to each of two friends I was having lunch with at two different times.

“I think I gave one to someone else, but I can’t remember who it was right now.”

“Jim Sherman said he liked my necklace, so I gave it to him.”

“The first cross I received, I gave to my mother because she was admiring my daughter’s and of course my daughter did not want to give hers away. My mother gave it to one of the residents in the nursing home she works at. This woman thanks my mother every day for the cross and tells her how grateful she is every day.

“The second cross I got, I gave to a patient that is battling breast cancer. She cried when I gave it to her. She wears it every time I see her when she

comes to my office. She tells me this office is filled with angels.”

“A coworker of mine noticed my necklace immediately on that first Monday morning and didn’t want to take it away from me until I explained why I was wearing it and how the plan was to spread the story of Easter. Shortly after, another coworker came along and admired it on the person I’d given it to, so it was then passed on to a second person.”

“While in the bank recently, the teller who was serving me asked where I got the cross. I started to tell her, but she explained before I could that someone had given her Mom a cross like mine. Her mother passed away after that and she said that they buried her Mom wearing the cross. I took mine off and gave it to her. She thanked me and said “This is to pass on, right?” She was very pleased with my gift and I know from her reaction it had special meaning for her.”



OUR ONLY JOB

Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy.

—*Thomas Merton*

CROP WALK – MAY 5th

This year’s CROP Walk will be held Sunday, May 5th at 2PM and will be starting at St. Patrick's Church on Main Street. There will be a 1-mile and a 3-mile route followed by a picnic. Please see Jan Bradshaw to sign up to walk. Thank you for your ongoing support for this ministry to help feed the hungry.

“When you talk, choose the very same words that you would use if Jesus were looking over your shoulder. Because he is.”

—*Marie T. Freeman*

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

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**