



# *The Messenger*

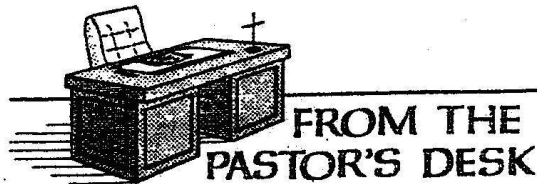
## Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



**May 2013**

Dear Friends,

Several years ago I was sitting in Hannaford parking lot in Lansingburgh, waiting for my husband to come out of the store with meat for supper. It was a warm day, and I had the window open. Gradually I became aware of two women standing in the parking lot gossiping about someone in their church.

Being a person interested in churches, my ears perked up, and I began to pay attention to what they were saying. They minced no words as they expressed their negative impressions of the person in question. To my surprise, my cheeks began to burn. At first I thought my reaction was due to the fact that even though I didn't know the person they were discussing, I was embarrassed for that person. Then I realized I was embarrassed for the Church.

Here were two church members who apparently were very involved in their Church. I was sure they loved God and were dedicated to those things that are pleasing to God, but not only did their behavior give a poor impression of their Church, thus discouraging others from joining, but also their gossiping was not behavior becoming to a Christian. Gossiping is included in the New Testament list of behaviors Christians are to avoid.

Sometimes when we're talking with people it's hard to know the difference between interesting conversation and gossip. Recently I saw a graphic that I thought helped to

make that distinction. The word THINK was spelled out, with each letter representing the beginning of a question. Before we say something about someone, we need to ask ourselves five questions: (1) Are our words Truthful? (2) Are our words Helpful? (3) Are our words Inspiring? (4) Are our words Necessary? (5) Are our words Kind? If we think about those questions before we talk about someone, we will usually find that we can pass #1 with flying colors, but fail miserably at #s 2-5.

All of us who claim the name of Christ need to take these words to heart. If we have been given the gift of gab, it can feel frustrating to have to weigh our words before we speak, but nothing less than the reputation of the Church, the reputation of others, and the joy of God, are at stake in the things we say.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Judi*





Thank you to the Set-Up Team (Jan Bradshaw, Mary Alice VanWie, and Fran Lobdell) and the Take-Down Team (Ray and Jan Bradshaw, Ken and Cindy Bliss) for all the hard work contributing to the Maundy Thursday Supper and Service of Tenebrae. Also, thanks to Lisa D’Arcangelis and the Choir for providing music and to Ginny Pearson for baking the gluten-free bread.

## MAY IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The main idea for children’s Sunday School in May is what the early Church was like...everyone was in agreement, the emphasis was on God’s love for all people, the Spirit came at Pentecost, and the Followers of the Way became known as “Christians.”

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** – *Hands-On Rotation:* Adriennne Seymour and Mother’s Day gifts

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** – *Hands-On Rotation:* Fran Lobdell and inclusive quilts (materials provided by Wanda Whitney)

**May 19<sup>th</sup>** – *Hands-On Rotation:* Sue Eccleston and Pentecost craft

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** – *Hands-On Rotation:* Christine Frazee and “Christian – the Name”

Our May outreach project for Sunday School is to support an organization called Jazzy Sun Birthdays. This organization throws a monthly birthday party for children who are living in two local homeless shelters.

Each party includes several games, a craft, pizza and cake. The birthday girl/boy receives several gifts and all the children from the shelter who attend the party receive goodie bags.

Jazzy Sun Birthdays also makes a personalized photo book on Shutterfly to give to the birthday girl/boy as a memento of their special day. This organization is run entirely on a volunteer basis. They would appreciate the following items: Disney Princess dolls, Dora dolls, toys appropriate for 1-2 year olds, Spiderman/Batman toys, toy cars, masking tape, scotch tape, glue gun and theme-specific balloons (to be filled by a helium tank). Monetary donations would be gratefully accepted as well.

We'd like to have several members of the Youth Group assist with a party at the shelter on May 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be organizing games and crafts and filling goodie bags prior to the party, helping to decorate, run and then clean up following the party.



## **CROP Hunger Walk MAY 5<sup>th</sup>**

Just a reminder that the CROP Walk for Hunger will be starting from St. Patrick's Church on Main Street in Ravena. If you'd like to make a donation, you can sponsor one of the many walkers right here at Church. Jan Bradshaw can give you a complete list of who they are.

## **A BAKING SUCCESS**

Thanks to many of you for donating (& purchasing) baked goods which added to the busyness of the day the Bargain Shed re-opened. All on its own, the Bake Sale made **\$371!** That's a LOT of goodies!

## **NEW LOCATION FOR CHICKEN BBQs**

We will be having chicken BBQ's catered by Frese's Catering every third Thursday of the month through the month of August beginning with May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Unlike previous years, the dinners will be sold from 4pm until sold out at **GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARKING LOT**. It was agreed at the Administrative Council Meeting that because the Bargain Shed and Book Nook would be open at the same time it would help with visibility to the public.

We will need the help of the entire congregation to "spread the word" because of the location change, but we know it can be done if everyone would tell someone. This combined with Frese's own following, should ensure the turnout doesn't differ from the past.

## **FRIENDS AROUND THE FIREPLACE**

For those who participate in Friends Around the Fireplace, please plan to stay for a meeting just for the church members on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:15 in the Lounge.

## THE BIRTH OF MOTHER'S DAY

Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) loved her mother dearly. It was Miss Jarvis who first suggested a national day to honor all mothers. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Anna gave a carnation, her mother's favorite flower, to each person in attendance. Within a few years, the idea to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was soon observed annually in many large cities of the United States.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then, it had become customary to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living. The custom continues to this day.

## 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY INTERVIEW

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Book Nook, and in honor of that occasion we are printing an interview with the Director of the Book Nook, Joy Mayo.

**Q:** How did the Book Nook get started?

**A:** It started ten years ago with Norma Smith who took some leftover Bargain Shed books and put them on a table. I said "As soon as we make \$100 we'll stop (doing this.) Then it was \$500." If we make \$10,000 can I quit?

**Q:** Where do you get the books?

**A:** Most of the books are people's donations. My next-door-neighbor is a librarian, and she gives me the leftover books from that library's books sales. The Ravena library also donates the books left over from their book sales. Other libraries donate books, as well.

**Q:** You are so welcoming and affectionate with people. Where does that come from?

**A:** From being a school teacher! You know that some people want hugs and others don't.

**Q:** You're very good at talking with people. How do you avoid it when people want to gossip?

**A:** I either pretend not to hear it, or I suddenly get very busy.

**Q:** What would you like people to know about the Book Nook?

**A:** All children get a free book every time they come. Books for nursing homes are free. Teachers may take up to 20 books per year for their

classrooms. Books sent to service personnel are free.

**Q:** What behind-the-scenes work do you do for the Book Nook?

**A:** I regularly check the internet to determine value for specific books. There's a book-promotion service the church uses (for selling valuable books.) But if I can sell you a book for \$1, and you can turn around and sell it for \$5, we're both ahead, and I'm fine with that.

## BOOK NOOK TOTAL YTD

Sales for the Book Nook through April 21<sup>st</sup> were **\$4,348!** Thanks to all who donated books and to all who bought them.



Birthday & anniversary greetings go out to those who will be celebrating in May:

- 3 James Quinn
- 4 Brandon Malloy
- 5 Sam & Hazel Lambert

- 6 Rilley Kellam
- 6 Jay & Chris Ingraham
- 13 Chelsea Youmans
- 17 Maddie McTigue
- 19 Cassandra Contreras
- 19 Rodger & Barbara Coryell
- 20 Ginny Frazee
- 22 Al Burrill
- 23 Kate Robertson
- 27 George June
- 29 Paige Roller
- 31 Sadie Lambert



## PENTECOST PASSION

Nineteenth-century evangelist Dwight L. Moody was walking down a New York City street, thinking about a sentence he'd heard: "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man who is wholly yielded to him."

Suddenly Moody felt a great yearning and cried out, "O God, make me that man!" He was so overwhelmed with God's love and with heartfelt passion to reach lost people that he had to stop at a friend's house to rest.

In *Birth of the Body*, Ray Stedman says this is what Luke is talking about when he describes the events of Pentecost. “When John the Baptist predicted that Jesus would come and baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire, he meant that there would be an unexplainable passion about the church.”

As we feel the Pentecost passion, let’s yield ourselves wholly to God and see what he does with us!



## EVANGELISM NEWS

During the past 40 days of Lent, the Evangelism Committee provided unique cross necklaces to the congregation. We are pleased to report that 200 necklaces were distributed in just a few weeks! Based on the overwhelming response and the wonderful stories we've heard, it was decided to continue this ministry through May and June.

Please continue wearing your cross necklace. When someone happens to admire your necklace, we encourage you to use the opportunity to share your faith. Take it off and present it to the admirer. As you do, the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be spread through your act of generosity.

And, the next time you come to church, we'll replace the necklace you gave away...this way you'll always have one to wear & one to share.

## BARGAIN SHED UPDATE

The Bargain Shed opened on April 13<sup>th</sup> and it was the best opening day ever. How wonderful to see all our established customers return and meet new friends. All the Shed staff worked very hard to spruce the building up and then to sort and display the many donated items received.

The day was made even better by the addition of a bake sale coordinated by Eleanor Moon. Joy Mayo reports that the Book Nook had a great day as well. **THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE!**

The Saturday time slot is still short a worker. We are recruiting volunteers on a Saturday to Saturday basis. If you would like to be part of this fun and rewarding contribution to your church, please see Edna Rominger or call her at 966-8740. We would love to have a full-time Saturday volunteer.

Please keep your donations coming. As we've said before, we cannot do this without your contributions.

[Please, no tv's or computers.]

FYI, within the first week of its reopening, the Shed made \$303...that's only 4 days!

## ALL OR NOTHING



You will not stroll into Christlikeness with your hands in your pockets, shoving the door open with a careless shoulder. This is no hobby for one's leisure moments, taken up at intervals when we have nothing much to do, and put down and forgotten when our life grows full and interesting. ... It takes all one's strength, and all one's heart, and all one's mind, and all one's soul, given freely and recklessly and without restraint.

- A. J. Gossip

# ASCENSION CRAFT



Use this craft to remember where Jesus is now and the promise of his return.

### What you need:

- An adult to help
- 4 cotton balls
- Blue plastic cup
- Glue
- Scissors
- White paper
- Markers or crayons
- Fishing line (about 14")
- Paper clip

### What you do:

1. Set the cup upside down. Pull apart the cotton balls, forming cloud shapes, and glue them around the cup.
2. With an adult's help, poke a hole in the bottom of the cup.
3. On the paper, draw and cut out a Jesus figure. Color both sides.
4. Poke a hole atop Jesus, string fishing line through the hole and tie a knot.
5. String the other end through the hole in the cup. Tie the end to a paper clip.
6. Pull up the paper clip to take Jesus into the clouds.





## LOOKING INTO THE SKY

As Jesus ascended into heaven, two angels had a message for his disciples.

**Directions:** Underline the word in each group that doesn't belong. Then write it on the line below to complete the angels' message in Acts 1:11, NIV.

1. strange  
same  
odd

2. Lazarus  
Jesus  
Martha

3. who  
then  
there

4. pear  
been  
apple

5. taken  
cat  
dog

6. sky  
from  
earth

7. you  
work  
toil

8. desk  
chair  
into

9. house  
hallway  
heaven

10. can't  
will  
won't

11. breakfast  
come  
lunch

12. nose  
back  
mouth

13. see  
the  
hear

14. oval  
round  
same

15. way  
girl  
boy

16. his  
her  
you

17. white  
have  
black

18. one  
seen  
two

19. go  
low  
high

20. sea  
heaven  
ocean

" This \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 , \_\_\_\_\_ 3 has \_\_\_\_\_ 4

\_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 9

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 in \_\_\_\_\_ 13

\_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 17

\_\_\_\_\_ 18 him \_\_\_\_\_ 19 into \_\_\_\_\_ 20 ."

Acts 1:11, *niv*

"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11, NIV

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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 **June** issue of *The Messenger* is **May 19<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**