



The Messenger

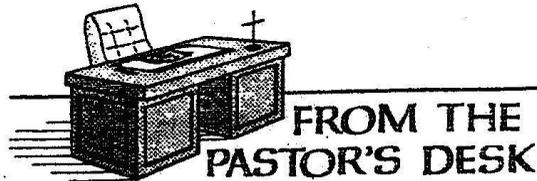
Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



July 2013

Dear Friends,

There have recently been two wonderful occasions for musical enjoyment at our church. One occasion was on Choir Sunday when the choir offered beautiful renditions of Leonard Cohen's "Alleluia," as well as "Seek Ye First," and "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace." The harmonies created richness, depth, and beauty. The other occasion was at the Baccalaureate Service when the High School Senior Chorus offered "Weep No More," "Flowers," and "Time to Say Good-Bye." The walls echoed with voices, crystal clear notes layered upon crystal clear notes in breath-taking arrangements. After both of these musical experiences I realized that our Sanctuary, like the great Sanctuaries of Europe, was designed not for speaking, but for music. The reverberations in the Sanctuary that drive us crazy when we try to hear each other speak, actually add to the depth and resonance of the music that is performed there.

What is ironic, is that we have been regarding the echoing of the Sanctuary as a problem to be overcome, rather than as an advantage to be celebrated when we are blessed with music. To be sure, when we try to speak in the Sanctuary as we would in our homes or on the street, there is a problem, but that same "problem" is a real asset to our music.

When I first came to GUMC two years ago I tried to preach in the same way I had preached in previous churches whose Sanctuaries were not designed for music - in a louder conversational style mildly amplified by a sound system. But what I have

discovered here at GUMC is that I must preach as if I were preaching in one of the great cathedrals of the world where every phrase must be followed by a brief pause so that the sound has time to roll through the congregation and then come back to me. I have had to learn to accommodate my preaching style to the design of GUMC's Sanctuary, just as I would if I were preaching in a cathedral.

Of course, I am not alone in needing to learn to accommodate. Accommodation is part of what it means for all of us to be part of the Church. We accommodate each other's preferences, personalities, styles, needs, limitations, and schedules. We cut each other some slack - the Bible calls it "Grace," the very name of our church!

As we mature in the faith it is God's intention that we become less insistent that life arrange itself to accommodate us, and more willing to let God use us to respond to the needs of others. Indeed, that is the meaning behind Christ's Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

May we all use this season of growth so that, like the crops in our gardens, we may find in the Fall that our growing has produced a harvest. For our gardens that harvest may be tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, or potatoes. For us as Christians, the harvest should be the fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, and self-control. Then we will find that we have not simply gotten older but have grown more in line with God's intention for our lives.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Judi



CROP WALK FINAL TALLY

The last of the donations from this year's Crop Walk have been received and proceeds along with the final report have been sent to Church World Service, of which 25% will be distributed to local food pantries. Grace UMC had 12 people walk and donations were outstanding! Figures are as follows:

Congregational Christian Church - **\$325**
1st Reformed Church of Bethlehem - **\$397**
Grace United Methodist Church - **\$1,090**
New Baltimore Reformed Church - **\$353**
Riverview Baptist Church - **\$500**
South Bethlehem United Methodist Church - **\$105**
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church - **\$192**
Trinity United Methodist Church - **\$377**

Grand Total - **\$3,339.00** and according to the forms and information turned in, there were a total of 55 walkers.

We are truly a caring community! Thank you to all who walked or contributed in any way!

BECOME AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF "THE MATTHEW PROJECT"

Our church has been invited to help with this summer's community outreach program, The Matthew Project; a community-based program organized under the direction of Covenant Community Care of Grace Covenant Church.

The Matthew Project is a summer feeding program designed to make sure every child has access to at least one nutritious meal each week day during July & August. Last year, over 5,000 lunches were distributed at 8 different locations throughout the RCS school district.

It took 97 individuals (ages 4-82) volunteering over 400 hours of community service to meet the nutritional needs that our children have while school is on summer break. As a community, it is crucial that we work together to meet this need. Your willingness to help serve in various capacities will make a huge difference in the lives of our local children.

If you would like more information about becoming an active supporter of this ministry, please contact Pastor Judi or Phyllis Shook.

In order to provide financial support for this program, we're considering the idea of hosting an ice cream social fund-raiser (details to be announced).

2013 Delivery Sites: Oakbrook Manor, Coeymans Gazebo, Fleming's Trailer Park, Mosher Park, Food for Thought Program, Rolling Hills Trailer Park and Shady Grove Trailer Park.

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

Beginning Tuesday, July 9th, the Bargain Shed will be having a \$3.00/bag sale on all men's, women's and children's clothes; shoes and handbags. The sale will continue through Saturday, July 20th. We are still accepting donations of seasonal items and we sincerely thank you for all your contributions. The Shed will be closed for the 4th of July holiday.

Periodically we have the opportunity to reach out to the larger community and provide needed items. This past month we learned of a family who had lost everything in a fire and we were blessed to be able to provide some needed household items and bed linens.

We cannot do any of the things we do without your support. Thanks again!!!

NOTE: YTD sales for the Bargain Shed as of June 23rd are **\$2,997**.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES:

On June 9th, the Sunday School honored our graduating seniors, June 20th, the baccalaureate service was held at our church and on June 22nd they will have officially graduated from high school. (Here's the plans for a couple of them...we may have more in the August issue of *The Messenger*.)

TREY CORYELL

Rodger "Trey" Coryell, III is one of those graduating seniors. He will graduate 6th in his class of 164 with honors from the National Honor Society and be in the RCS Hall of Fame. He was on the varsity soccer team for 4 years and captain for 3. He ran indoor track for 4 years and captain for 2. He ran outdoor track for 5 years and was captain for 1. He played baritone for 6 years and was selected to All-County Band as a freshman and again as a senior. He participated in Science Olympiad in 6th, 7th and 8th grade and went on to compete at the state competition all 3 years.

Trey will be attending MCLA (Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts) in North Adams in the fall where

he will study History/Secondary Education with a Coaching minor while also being part of the Honors program. He is part of the freshmen recruits for the soccer team. And last but not least, for the past 2 years he has taught the 3-5 year old Sunday School Class. We want to thank the congregation and all his Sunday School teachers who have helped make him the person he is today.

VICTORIA YOUMANS

Victoria Youmans was honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and into the Honor Society while in High School at RCS. She enjoyed Cheerleading and was the Captain of both the Junior Varsity and the Varsity squads. She participated in Volleyball, Drama and was a member of Natural Helpers. Tori was also an editor on the Yearbook Committee and loved being part of the Chorus.

Tori will be attending Siena College in the fall. She will be studying Psychology with a minor in Biology in order to attend the Physician's Assistant Program in her Junior year. She hopes to continue many of the activities she participated in during her high school years while attending Siena.



10th ANNUAL HUGE BOOK SALE

Our 10th annual HUGE Book Sale and mini-rummage sale will be held on the following dates:

Thursday, August 1st – 6-8pm

Friday, August 2nd – 9am-3pm, 6-8pm

Saturday, August 3rd – 9am-3pm

We will be setting up Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday...that's July 29th, 30th and 31st (and Thursday, August 1st if more work needs to be done). The setting-up work schedule is 9am-3pm and 6-8pm. If you can spare an hour or two, we would appreciate your help. If not, we hope you will stop by and shop or at least look around at some of the 25 to 30 thousand books on display.

NOTE: YTD sales for the Book Nook as of June 23rd are **\$5,306**. Also, the Book Nook will be closed for the 4th of July holiday.

GET READY FOR THE NEXT CHICKEN BBQ

On June 20th, 150 dinners were offered for sale and unlike the May BBQ, we had two trays of chicken left over at 8:45pm. Fortunately, we were able to sell the leftover chicken to church members and the sales figure came in at a total of \$227!

The next BBQ will be on **July 11th**...it was switched from the 3rd Thursday of the month for July due to a conflict with another chicken BBQ.

Volunteers are needed once again to help package the dinners. Please consider helping out not only to make this a success, but to offer some relief to those who consistently work this fundraiser. Let Ginny Pearson know if you are able to help.



“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.”

—*Corrie ten Boom*



Birthday & anniversary greetings go out in July to all those celebrating:

- 3 Joshua Dedrick
- 3 Janet Mantynen
- 3 Quaniesha Porterfield
- 5 Alan Baumback
- 5 Jean Lyons
- 7 Christine Frazee
- 10 Mike Ellis
- 10 Mark Gordon
- 12 Lidia Ruso
- 13 Jan Bradshaw
- 14 Ken & Cindy Bliss
- 14 John & Pam Ginder
- 14 Ethan Roe
- 14 June Baumback
- 16 Matthew Ginder
- 22 Mike Mattick
- 25 Leland Case
- 26 Karen Black
- 29 Adam & Donna Newton
- 29 Trey Coryell



Numbers 10 tells of God's command that Moses make two bugles for various purposes: summoning the leaders, sending the people to war, announcing worship, presenting offerings, calling everyone for a festival. "Blow the bugles," declares the Lord. "They will keep your attention on God" (v. 10, The Message).

What "bugles" draw our attention to God? Maybe church bells chime daily near your home. Maybe worship attendance serves as the "bugle" that calls you back to the Divine. Some people place a small dot-sticker on the face of their watch to remind them to pray whenever they check the time. A sticker on your cell phone or MP3 player might work even better. Maybe you set your Bible or devotions on the kitchen table before bed to remind you to start your day with God.

God's people get distracted easily, whether with tent-pitching in the Sinai Desert 3,500 years ago or with jam-packed schedules today. We all need a "bugle." What's yours?

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE JULY 14TH

June's Administrative Council meeting approved an outdoor worship service, weather permitting, for Sunday, July 14th. Everyone is encouraged to either bring a favorite lawn chair or feel free to use a folding chair from Fellowship Hall. If the weather is too hot, too cold, too rainy, or too buggy, the service will be in Fellowship Hall. Come and be refreshed by a change in our worship location.



ONLINE SHOPPING CAN FINANCIALLY HELP GUMC

Recently, the United Methodist Church has developed a way for online shopping to benefit local United

Methodist churches like our own. At UMCMarket.org you can shop online at 1,000 popular stores, and a percentage of each sale will be sent to the local church or United Methodist organization that you wish to support. Among these stores are Barnes and Noble, Marshalls, and Kohl's.

LONG-AWAITED DRAINAGE PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED

On Saturday, July 20th, GUMC Trustees will be digging a ditch, laying pipe, and burying it as they endeavor to prevent any more leakage around the doors in the front of the Sanctuary. This is a big job, and it calls for men willing and able to do the heavy lifting. Let's not expect one or two people to do this by themselves. Please contact Ken Bliss, Chair of Trustees, and let him know you would be willing to help. Many hands will make light work.

GETTING READY FOR THE FALL FAIR

If it's almost the 4th of July, can the Fall Fair be far away? September 28th, the date of the fair, will be here before we know it. One of the easiest ways to raise money for the fair is for church

members to ask the people with whom they regularly do business to donate a business card-sized ad to our Fall Fair Program Booklet, in exchange for their \$25 donation. We did this last year, and raised \$300 before we had sold a single item at the Fair.

It's not too soon to do this. Simply ask at the church office for a form to use with each business you contact.



DWELL IN UNITY

Considering the staggering height of redwood trees, we assume they must need incredibly deep roots. But these giants have extremely shallow roots, growing only 4 to 6 feet deep.

Instead of heading downward, the roots extend outward — spreading out as far as 125 feet. Stability occurs because the roots intertwine with those of neighboring trees. This network allows redwoods to stand tall despite strong winds and storms.

In a similar way, such interconnect-edness keeps the body of Christ standing strong. Psalm 133:1 urges believers to “dwell in unity” (ESV). In order to inhabit one another's lives, we must share our stories, offer forgiveness and provide encouragement.

Through those actions, our roots spread wide as we support our brothers and sisters in Christ.

HOW HEALTHY IS OUR FREEDOM?

Our attitude toward the poor is still one of the surest tests of the health of our freedom. The moment freedom is used to avoid acts of mercy or help or compassion, it is exposed as a fraud. A free person who finds ways to enhance the lives of the poor demonstrates the truest and most mature freedom. ... We are not free to dismiss poor people from our awareness, to turn a deaf ear to voices that ask for help, to harbor even the slightest contempt for the failures and rejects in our society.

—*Eugene H. Peterson,*
Traveling Light

TAKE CARE OF FIRST

Legendary Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden often inspired his team with stories. Here's one that former players cite as a favorite:

As a college baseball player, Bowden had never hit a home run. Finally, he hit one down the right-field line, into

the corner. He ran past first base and looked to the coach, who waved him on.

Bowden made it home and hit the plate, thrilled to have his homer. But as he was accepting his teammates' congratulations, the opposing pitcher took the ball and threw to the first baseman. The umpire immediately called Bowden out because he'd neglected to touch the base.

Reflecting on the incident, Bowden said, "You have to take care of first base. If you don't honor the Lord first, then it doesn't matter what else you do."

Similarly, we need to take care of first things first. Unless we honor the Lord in all we do, nothing else will matter.

SOLES FOR SOULS

The letter on the following page was received by the Sunday School for their collection of shoes that went to good use. Thank you to all who donated!



CHANGING THE WORLD



ONE PAIR AT A TIME®

May 16, 2013



Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Dr
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining our mission and collecting shoes for those in need! We know that this required a lot of effort and commitment on your part and want to assure you that your work will help improve the lives of many hurting people around the world. It is only because of compassionate people like yourself that we are able to expand our mission and realize our goals, which has always been to simply help those in need.

We are truly blessed to have friends like you. We want to assure you that your donation will enable individuals in the United States and around the world to step out of poverty. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and your personal involvement with our cause is tremendously important. You should be proud of your humanitarian efforts. We invite you to keep our mission in mind, should the opportunity arise to continue to donate to our cause.

Thanks again for helping us with our mission of **"Changing the World One Pair at a Time"™!**

Contribution Date: 5/8/13

Total Pairs: 18

With deepest thanks,

Buddy Teaster
CEO

HAITI | 3 Years Later



Soles4Souls invites you to join in their efforts to continue to make a difference in the lives of Haitians in need. Beginning this month and concluding January 2014, our year long initiative is to collect a goal of 264,000 pairs of shoes to support and expand the local micro-enterprise program there.

Micro-enterprise is one of the only forms of sustainable income for individuals in developing countries like Haiti. By providing a regular shipment of shoes to Haitians participating in the program, **they will be able to make an honest wage** off of the profit earned. For a mother, this can mean the difference between food, clothing and education for her children, and not.



If you would like to join this important initiative and help collect shoes, visit our site to learn more and promise your support.

GiveShoes.org/Haiti

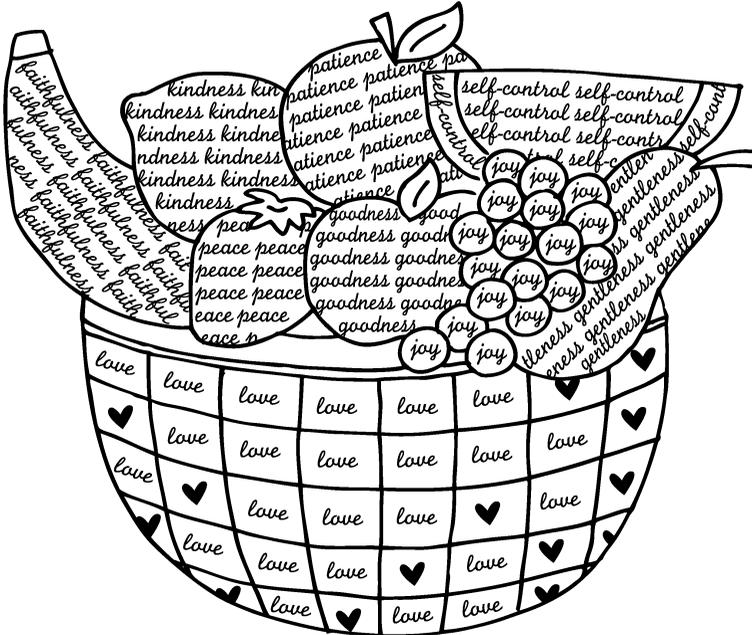




Seasonal Fruit

Although some fruit is seasonal, God encourages us to share the fruit of the Spirit with other people all year long. Galatians 5:22-23 lists the fruits we should give away.

Directions: Count each fruit (full words only) and write the numbers below.



Love= ___ Joy= ___ Peace= ___ Patience= ___ Kindness= ___

Goodness= ___ Faithfulness= ___ Gentleness= ___ Self-control= ___

Answers: Love = 24, Joy = 18, Peace = 7, Patience = 7, Kindness = 7, Goodness = 6, Faithfulness = 6, Gentleness = 6, Self-control = 5

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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 **August** issue of *The Messenger* is **July 21st**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**