



The Messenger

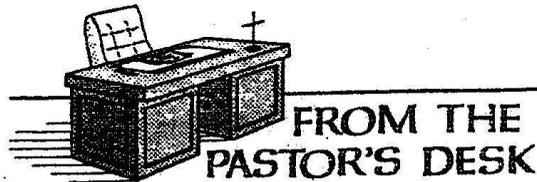
Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



August 2013

Dear Friends,

It was Sunday afternoon. Our daughter and her family had visited for the weekend, and we were discussing whether they should return home that afternoon or Monday morning. We finally decided to spend Sunday afternoon driving them home to Connecticut. Once in the car and underway, we were talking, entertaining the two-year-old, and listening to the radio, so with all that stimulus it took me a while to realize that once we were on I-90 we were joined by thousands of other cars, and the interstate was transformed into a parking lot. We were moving, but just barely.

We rolled along, but after several miles at 10mph it suddenly occurred to me that we didn't have to do this – we could take them home tomorrow! We made it as far as the Lee rest area and stopped for coffee. The place was a madhouse! The restaurants were understaffed because there were so many travelers and other workers couldn't get through. Tempers were high. There was a projected half-hour wait for a fast-food hamburger. We made the decision to return to Ravena and try again the next day.

As we slowly rolled to the Lee exit, there was a sea of cars ahead of us and just as many behind us. Texting traveling friends revealed that the entire interstate heading east was packed all the way to New Hampshire. I felt so sorry for all those people who didn't have the freedom we had to go home the next day. It was with a sense of relief that we exited the interstate and reversed direction to take the almost-empty highway back home.

As I thought about how long it had taken me to realize that we didn't have to spend our Sunday afternoon in a gridlock with thousands of other people on an interstate, I wondered why I hadn't realized it earlier. I finally decided that being part of all those people going in the same direction made it difficult for me to think of doing something different.

The Bible-word "repent" literally means "to reverse direction." Repentance is not just a feeling of being sorry; it is a decision to change direction in one's life. When we are caught up in a way of life that we sense is not what God has in mind, it can be hard to extricate ourselves from the situations in which we find ourselves. We remember that in the Parable of the Prodigal Son the wayward son was in a far country and suddenly "came to himself" and realized he didn't have to live feeding pigs any more – he could return home. He repented. In that sense, when my family and I were on the interstate I suddenly "came to myself" and realized we didn't have to do this.

As we physically travel this summer, let us remember that spiritually we are headed in a different direction than many of our fellow-travelers. We have the emotional freedom to try other ways of serving God. We can turn around! Christians are called to grow in the faith, not simply to find a comfortable niche and repeat the same actions year after year. We are in mission. We have a mandate from Christ to be witnesses to the actions of God in the world.

Faithfully,
Pastor Judi



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Fall Fair is scheduled for September 28th. I would like to hold a Fair Committee Meeting on Wednesday, July 31, at 7pm. Anyone interested in taking part in planning, organizing and supporting, please let me know as soon as possible. All help is welcome.

This past week's heat wave has demonstrated an extreme need for additional air conditioning in the Bargain Shed. The AC unit currently in use helps, but is not capable of cooling such a large building. If anyone has a spare air conditioner or is planning to upgrade and willing to part with their old unit, I'm sure the Bargain Shed ladies and their customers would be thrilled. Please remember, the Bargain Shed and the Book Nook contribute greatly to the Church's finances.

Our drainage ditch project has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 27th at 8am. We will have a backhoe available, but need manpower to get both ditches done in one day. Please contact me at 756-3663 (home) or 487-1145 (cell) if you can help with any of these projects. Thank you!

- *Ken Bliss*

AUGUST 1st – 3rd 10th ANNUAL HUGE BOOK SALE

The 10th Annual HUGE Book Sale is only about a week away... August 1st, 2nd and 3rd (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). We need HELP with setting up and taking down.

Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall or you can come in Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday between 9am-3pm or 6-8pm. We'll be doing more setting up on Thursday *only* if we haven't finished by Wednesday evening.

Hours for the Sale are as follows:

Thursday, August 1st – 6-8pm
Friday, August 2nd – 9am-3pm, 6-8pm
Saturday, August 3rd – 9am-3pm

Food items and ice cream will be available for sale during the daytime hours; and during the evening hours, just ice cream.

Takedown will be on Saturday, August 3rd from 3pm-?. (We really need you then.) Our goal this year is to raise \$2,000. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

The YTD total for the Book Nook as of July 21st is **\$5,806!**



ICE CREAM FUNDRAISER

The Evangelism Committee will host an ice cream sundae fundraiser in conjunction with the Huge Book Sale on August 1-3 and after Church on August 4th. For a small donation of only \$2.00 you get 2 scoops of ice cream plus a variety of delicious toppings!

All proceeds will go to the Matthew Project, a summer program that provides food for local children who otherwise may not have a nutritious meal while school is out.

During the daytime hours of the Sale (Thursday, Friday and Saturday), ice cream sundaes will be sold (along with food items). Additionally, Thursday and Friday evenings from 6-8pm ice cream sundaes will be sold.

All of the ice cream, toppings and supplies will be donated by Stewarts!

This community-based summer feeding program is running through July & August. There is always a need for volunteers to help serve the meals as well. Please contact Pastor Datri at [573-1298](tel:573-1298) if you would like to help deliver the food. For more details about this program, see our July newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE BARGAIN SHED

Seems hard to believe with the heat we've been having, but the workers at the Bargain Shed will soon be changing stock over to Fall/Winter items. Starting Monday, August 19, we will be at the Shed each day during the week changing the inventory. Our work hours will be:

Monday, 8/19 - 9-3
Tuesday, 8/20 - 12-3
Wednesday, 8/21 - 9-3
Thursday, 8/22 - 9-12
Friday, 8/23 - 9- ?

If you would like to give us a hand, you're welcome to just come on in during any of these days during our work hours.

Your Fall/Winter donations may be dropped off any time after August 19 when someone is there to receive them.

Please do not leave your contribu-

tions outside. A reminder also...we cannot accept TV's or computers.

Recently the Bargain Shed remained closed on a Thursday evening when the temperature rose to 95+. At the moment we have a small air conditioner but even with the addition of fans, the building gets incredibly hot by evening. If anyone out there has a good, working air conditioner you are willing to donate, the Shed ladies would be most happy to have it.

Thanks again for your continued support!

NOTE: YTD sales for the Bargain Shed as of July 21st are **\$3,572.**

GRACE UMC TO BE AT FESTIVAL OF TRAINS

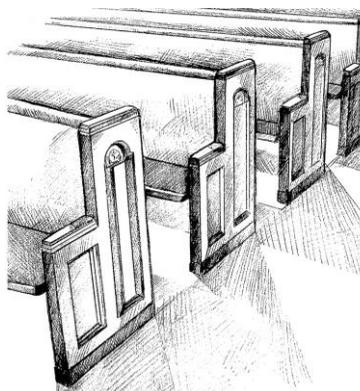
"Festival of Trains" is the new theme for the street festival that will take place in the village of Ravenna on August 31st from 10am-8pm. You've probably seen train engines popping up all around town.

The Book Nook will represent Grace UMC. We will be passing out Church information in the form of a bookmark to let people know about our church, its activities and times.

Hopefully, people will stop by and "choo-choo"se a book or better yet...get a positive impression of our church. (I couldn't resist...Do I have to re"track" it?)

Needless to say we will need help in setting up and taking down. Please feel free to volunteer.

- Joy Mayo



RE-STUFF/RE-UPHOLSTER A PEW – SAVE OUR CHURCH A BUNDLE

Are you ready to sit on a clean, comfortable seat during church? Help us make it happen!

We will begin the process of recovering the church pews on August 6th at 6pm. Dessert will be provided as a way to entice you to join us!

Recovering the pews will be a long process and involves several steps. At each step different equipment will be required. Drills with square bits and pliers will be needed to take apart the cushions. Metal scrapers will be needed to remove the old adhesive. Rotary cutters and straight edges would be helpful to measure and cut the fabric. Staple guns and staples will be used to attach the new fabric and foam onto the boards.

It will be messy work, so anyone who may not feel comfortable working with tools but would be willing to help clean up would certainly be an asset!

We will be working on the pews every Tuesday and Thursday at 6pm starting on August 6th until further notice. Please come and help...many hands make light work. Enjoy the fellowship; restore the comfort of the pews; and save the church thousands of dollars. Contact Rick or Kate Robertson if you have any questions.

10 REASONS TO ATTEND CHURCH

1. To have fellowship with the crucified and risen Christ.
2. To worship.
3. To be forgiven.
4. To hear the voice of God.

5. To grow in the knowledge of the Bible, God's Word.
6. To feed your soul.
7. To be prayed for.
8. To be loved and encouraged.
9. To love and encourage your fellow Christians.
10. To promote the Gospel.

- Dr. Richard P. Bucher

ORDINARY OFFERINGS, EXTRAORDINARY USE

The book of Numbers contains endless instructions about the offerings Israel should make – gold and silver vessels, flour-and-oil mixtures, incense and sacrificial animals. Hidden in there are “six covered wagons and twelve oxen” (7:3, KJV) that the leaders offer to God.

Although many of the commanded offerings were impractical for daily living and likely easy to comply with – what use were silver bowls and incense while wandering the desert? – giving up wagons and oxen surely required more thought. They may not seem as holy as gifts of money, fancy utensils and expensive fabric, but they were indeed precious: They would transport the Tent of Meeting from place to place.

Likewise today, some people offer money, altar linens, bread and wine; others donate art supplies for Sunday school, casseroles for funeral luncheons, a computer for the church office. All gifts are useful. All are holy.

AUGUST CHICKEN BBQ

On August 15th our next Chicken BBQ will be held here at Grace UMC starting at 4pm until sold out. This will be the last BBQ this summer. We hope to see a good turn out.

Volunteers are always needed to package the dinners. Contact Ginny Pearson if you are able to help.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday & anniversary greetings for August go out to:

- 4 Jim Youmans
- 9 Ken Bliss
- 9 Elizabeth Robertson
- 9 Brian Phillips
- 10 Audry & George June
- 10 Brian & Sharon Phillips
- 11 Marlene McTigue
- 12 Barb Bullock
- 16 Beth Babcock
- 17 Pastor Judi and Pastor Allen

- 18 John Ginder
- 18 Stacey Youmans
- 21 Jonathan Haslett
- 21 Evangelyn Seymour
- 22 Mark Contreras
- 23 Ethan Johnson
- 24 Gabriella Selbe
- 25 Devin Whitney
- 25 Ryan Roe

A POEM TO SHARE

Thanks to Don Moon for sharing the following poem he came across recently:

Some go to church to take a walk
Some go there to laugh and talk
Some go there to meet a friend
Some go there their time to spend
Some go there to meet a lover
Some go there a fault to cover
Some go there for speculation
Some go there for observation
Some go there to doze and nod
The wise go there to worship God.

*(Charles Spurgeon, 1834-1892
pastor New York street chapel,
London)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

This year's theme for Sunday School is how God worked through judges, kings and prophets to spread his word. Our

classes will start on September 15th and will begin after the children's moment of the church service.

Gabriella Selbe and Dashanna Siebold will be teaching the Pre-School to First Grade class. James June, Amy Devine-Young and Stephanie Canham will be teaching Grades 2-4. Mike Mattick will teach the 5-7th Grade class and Barbara Coryell and Phyllis Shook will continue to teach Grade 8-High School. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of volunteers to teach our children.

The Sunday School is looking for an individual to fill the Treasurer position. If you feel moved to take on this task, we would appreciate it! The Treasurer collects the Sunday School donations each week and deposits them in the bank. The Treasurer also maintains the

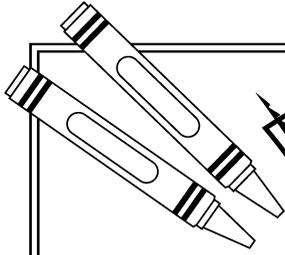
checkbook accounts. If you are interested, please contact Kate Robertson or Adrienne Seymour.

ACTIVE LOVE

Christ calls us to active love that isn't always easy. But it's stronger and longer-lasting than the love of dreams and fairy tales.

As Fyodor Dostoyevsky writes in *The Brothers Karamozov*, "Love in dreams is greedy for immediate action, rapidly performed and in sight of all. Men will give their lives if only the ordeal does not last long but is soon over, with all looking on and applauding as if on the stage. But active love is labor and fortitude."

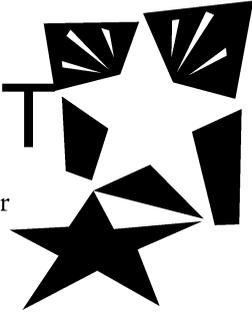




PUZZLE

GOD'S LIGHT

Summer's long days can remind us of our Creator, who made the sun and wants us to live in his light.



Directions: First, write the opposite of each word in parentheses. Then use the Word Bank words, in order, to complete 1 John 1:5-7, NIV.

WORD BANK: is in is at if in as is in with

God _____; _____
(dark) (her)

there _____ ness _____
(yes) (light) (none)

But _____ we _____ the _____,
(run) (dark)

_____ the _____,
(she) (dark)

we have fellowship _____ one another. ...

1 John 1:5-7, NIV

Answer: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ... But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. (1 John 1:5-7, 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



Deadline for articles for the **September** issue of *The Messenger* is **August 18th**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**