



# *The Messenger*

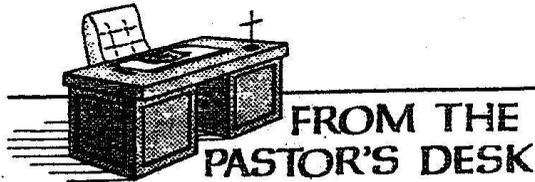
## Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



**September 2013**

Dear Friends,

From the rear of the Sanctuary everything looks reassuringly familiar. The backs of the all the pews are in their two straight lines. The Communion Table is front and center. The pulpit stands on the right, and the piano sits on the left. Clearly, God is in Heaven, and all is right with the world.

But anyone walking down the aisle would discover that something is amiss. There is an uncomfortable feeling that something has changed, and upon closer inspection, it is clear that some of the pew seats are missing. What is going on? Has a pew-seat robber stolen into our Sanctuary and removed several of the seats? We know they were uncomfortable, but they were better than nothing!

What we are witnessing, of course, is the gradual transformation of each of the pews as each seat, in turn, is removed from the Sanctuary and brought into Fellowship Hall for the unstapling, dried-up foam removal, scraping, new foam gluing, and new fabric covering/fastening that allows that pew to be returned to the Sanctuary. The work, overseen by the Robertsons, Jay Ingraham, and Ray Bradshaw, is a labor of love for the church's volunteers who show up on Tuesday and/or Thursday evenings, and sometimes on Thursday mornings, to participate in whatever piece of the project feels right for them. It was a big project to undertake, but by doing the work ourselves we are

saving the church \$5000 and enjoying physical labor side-by-side with people we usually just sit with.

There's an additional discovery, as well. There's something freeing about seeing the predictable, well-ordered, haven't-moved-for-fifty-years pew seats take their turns for renovation in another space. It suggests movement. It says things can be different. It says we are not nailed to the floor. It reminds us that the Christian life is meant to be a journey, not a static position.

After fifty years, the crumbling pew cushions needed renewal if they were going to be of service to us. Those of us who are over fifty can take a lesson from them. As Christians we do not want to just crumble away. To be of service to others we need to open ourselves to renewal, to change, to viewing our faith lives from new perspectives.

Homecoming Sunday at Grace will be September 15<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will start, many vacationing folks will return, and new seats will be waiting to greet them. What a wonderful way to begin the new school year. Come be welcomed and renewed.

Faithfully,  
*Pastor Judi*



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL TO RESTART 9/15**

Sunday School will start up on September 15<sup>th</sup>, and Fall in the children's Sunday School will take the students through the Old Testament as they focus on the kings and prophets through whom God worked. All Preschool and Elementary students will begin with worship in the Sanctuary, and after the Time Especially For Children they will go to the following rooms on the second floor:

**Preschool** - Second room on the left w/ Gabrielle Selbe and Dashanna Siebold

**Younger Elementary** - First room on the left w/James June, Amy Young, and Stephanie Canham

**Tween** - Third room on the left w/Mike Mattick and Dave Christ

**Crafts** - Fellowship Hall w/rotating teachers. The craft teachers for September will be:

*September 15* - Sue Eccleston and "God's Call to Me" scrolls

*September 22* - Cindy Bliss and Samuel the Judge puzzles

*September 29* - Sharon Phillips and Choosing a King activity

The **Adult Class** and the **Eighth thru Twelfth Grade Class** will meet from 9-10am. Rodger Coryell will teach the adult class upstairs in the last room on the left. Barb Coryell and Phyllis Shook will teach the 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade class in the lower level in the last room on the left.

## **HOMECOMING POT LUCK**

Please join us in the tradition of contributing to a pot luck lunch on Homecoming Sunday. It's a great way to get back in touch with those who've been away for the summer months and welcome new faces.

## **THE RESULTS ARE IN**

Thanks to a great team effort the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Huge Book Sale was a HUGE SUCCESS. Our goal was to make \$2,000 and we ended with (drum roll, please...) **\$3,070!**

That being said, if you receive the electronic version of this newsletter, you still have time to volunteer your HELP. (Unfortunately, the paper version of this won't be available until after the event.)

The Book Nook will be representing Grace United Methodist Church at Ravena's Festival of Trains on August

31<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 8pm. We will need help setting up our tables, putting out the books and working for a couple of hours (helping with sales and representing Grace United Methodist Church).

We will also need people at the church that day because the Bargain Shed and Book Nook will be open, too. Sign-up sheets will be out or you can contact Joy Mayo directly to let her know if and when you are available to pitch in. Many hands make light work!

*NOTE:* YTD sales for the Book Nook (as of early August) are **\$8,876!**



## **HONORING OUR TEACHERS**

We give thanks that you will lead us in the ministry of Christian education. We offer you our pledge of support. As you teach your students, may all be open to God's truth and be inspired to live the Christian life as fully as possible. Remember that we appreciate greatly the time and effort you expend as teachers of our church family. May God grant you strength and joy in your important role.

## **WANTED**

**WANTED:** Any adults interested in helping with Youth Group. Do you have happy memories of your own youth group or the time you spent with your child in youth group? If so, come share your experience!

There will be a meeting early in the fall to discuss the year's activities. Some ideas proposed are the following: haunted house at the Halloween party, turkey trot, New Year's Eve party, serving dinner at the Rescue Mission, candy making, overnight retreat, and a sleep-a-thon with the Homeless Action Committee. We would also like to plan some joint activities with the youth from area churches. If you are interested in helping out on a regular basis (or intermittently) we would love your input. Please contact Kate Robertson or Pastor Judi.



## **BARGAIN SHED**

The Bargain Shed has changed its inventory to Fall/Winter items. The Shed workers put in many hours removing the Spring/Summer stock, cleaning, straightening and putting out the new seasonal items.

If you have any seasonal items to donate, they may be dropped off any time the shop is open. We are open Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. [Once again, please, no TV's or computers.]

As always, the Bargain Shed will be open from 9 - 3 during the Fall Fair on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

*NOTE:* YTD sales for the Bargain Shed as of August 17<sup>th</sup> are approximately **\$5,090!**

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthday & anniversary greetings for the month go out to:

- 6 Ron Mantynen
- 6 Barbara Millious
- 8 Mark & Jean Gordon
- 10 Kallian Morse
- 13 Steve & Phyllis Shook
- 14 Ashley Miller
- 16 Rodger Coryell
- 18 Colin & Marlene McTigue
- 21 Rebecca Shook
- 23 Christian Haslett
- 27 Heather Meisner
- 27 Jean Gordon
- 29 Alicia Moss
- 30 John Mantynen



## SUNDAE SUCCESS

During the 3-day Huge Book Sale and after church on the following Sunday, ice cream sundaes were sold by the Evangelism Committee. The proceeds went to benefit the Matthew Project which provides food for local children over the summer. Our neighbors at Stewart's donated ice cream and toppings so that we were able to make a contribution of \$141. Thanks to all who scooped, sprinkled, drizzled and especially to those who ate!



## THERE'S STILL TIME TO HELP

Those working on the pew refurbishing can use your help. They've been working every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-8 or 9pm. A big thank you goes out to the dedicated group who has been working so hard on this project. Even if you can't stay for the

entire time, a little of your time and help is welcome.

Kate Robertson reports that about 8 pews are done... what a difference between the worn out old ones and those that have been redone! We're all going to enjoy them, so please pitch in if you can.

## **A MESSAGE TO HER FRIENDS AT GRACE UMC**

Harriet Marple reports that Vera (Pat) Mahnken would like to thank all the people who have sent her cards over time. She says "It's nice to know people think of me and they are appreciated."

## **29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FALL FAIR 9/28**

There will be all kinds of activities going on at this year's Fall Fair:

Farmer's Market  
Silent Auction  
Ravena-Coeymans Fire Department  
Masonic Child ID Program  
Boy Scouts & Girls Scouts Booths  
Crafts  
Bouncy Bounce

There will also be household and furniture items for sale. We've asked

some vendors to join us, too, so there should be something for everyone. Come join us for a day of fun and treats from 9am – 3pm on September 28<sup>th</sup>.



Kimber Ginter, beloved hound of Bonnie Ginter, accompanied Bonnie to the Fall Fair meeting on August 14<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall. During the meeting, chaired by Ken Bliss, Kimber rooted out a bat that had sat unnoticed on the floor.

Ken removed the bat from the premises, and Kimber was suitably rewarded with words of appreciation, pats on the head, and doggie treats.



## **GRANDPARENTS REFLECT GOD**

A woman and her grandson were spending the day together. Suddenly, the boy had an "a-ha!" expression and

asked, “Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?”

The grandmother smiled to herself and mentally polished her halo a bit. “No,” she replied. “How?”

“You’re both old!” the boy said. Ah, but most grandparents really are like God in many ways — kind, loving, forgiving, understanding, comforting, creative, wise. Above all, they’ve guided us to walk in God’s paths.

Thank you, God, for these special people who have lived long enough to become like you, in many ways.

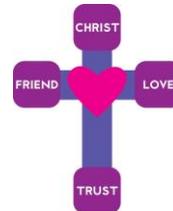
## WILLING TO SACRIFICE

Robert Coleman, in *Written in Blood* (Fleming H. Revell), tells of a boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The boy was the ideal donor because the two children had the same rare blood type. When the doctor asked, “Would you give your blood to your sister?” the boy hesitated.

Finally, with a trembling lip, he said, “Sure, I’d do it for her.” Soon a nurse inserted a needle into the boy’s arm. As he watched his blood flow out, his voice shook. He asked, “Doctor, when do I die?” The doctor then realized the gravity of the boy’s decision. He’d

thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his own life.

The boy’s love for his sister mirrored Jesus’ love for all. Fortunately for us, Jesus loved us so deeply that he was willing to die so we might live.



I am convinced ... that friendships provide the most fertile soil for evangelism. When the reality of Christ is introduced into a relationship of love and trust that has already been established, the effect is powerful. And it seems that invariably, when someone becomes a true follower of Christ, that person’s first impulse is to want to find a friend and introduce that friend to Christ.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Some of you may remember Rev. Meredith Vandermitten and the Spiritual Gifts workshop that she conducted at Grace in 2006. It’s been a long time and we have changed in many ways...both individually and as a congregation.

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee would like to once again offer this opportunity to everyone at Grace. It will require thoughtful contemplation on your part but the rewards will be worthwhile. When the people of God take time to grow individually and spiritually, we believe it will benefit His church. As we grow, our congregation will grow.

The inventory questions have not changed but, YOU have! Our committee encourages everyone to take this opportunity to discover your God-given strengths and talents. It will only take 20-30 minutes. We truly believe it will prove to be time well spent.

The Spiritual Gifts Inventory will be available by e-mail or paper booklet.

At a workshop on October 13<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Judi will lead us in determining the individual and collective results of the inventory. She will help us score the answers from our inventory sheet and rate our gifts (higher to lower score). Please be assured, this is not a competition. Your answers will be personal and confidential. The workshop is simply offered to help you score your results and share only to the extent that you are comfortable.

Please take time to prayerfully consider your spiritual gifts. God has blessed each of us with special talents and gifts. We believe He would be pleased by our efforts to explore and grow them for the sake of His Church as well as our individual faith walk.

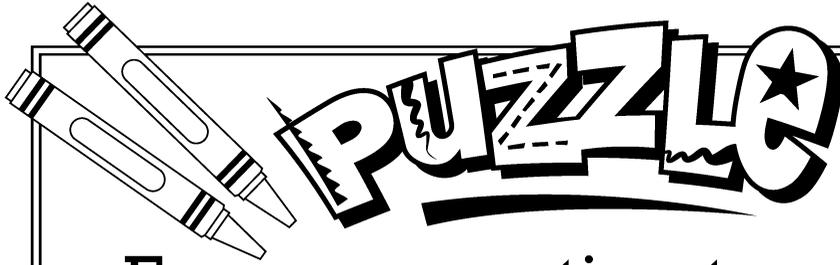
*Editor's Note:* This month you will find a third attachment to your newsletter e-mail. It is the Spiritual Gifts Inventory referred to above. If you would like to print a hard copy, it prints on 8 ½ X 11 paper. Those getting a hard copy of the newsletter at church will find a copy of the Spiritual Gifts Inventory included in their copy.



## **WELCOME!**

Welcome! Longtime members, newcomers, whether you come every week or are returning after a long time, we're blessed and gladdened that you're here.





# From generation to **GENERATION**

Grandparents are a bridge of love for future generations. The greatest heritage they can pass on is their faith and love for God.

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*Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.*

----- JOEL 1:3, NIV -----

**Directions:** List as many words as you can create from the letters in **GENERATIONS**. You may want to challenge a grandparent to this!

**2-letter words**

**3-letter words**

**4-letter words**

**5+ letters**

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**Add up the total number of words you found. >>>** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will vary.

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**16 Hillcrest Drive**  
**Ravena, NY 12143-1409**

**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 **October** issue of *The Messenger* is **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

**[bbullock812@gmail.com](mailto:bbullock812@gmail.com)**

*or*

fax to: **731-8994**