



# *The Messenger*

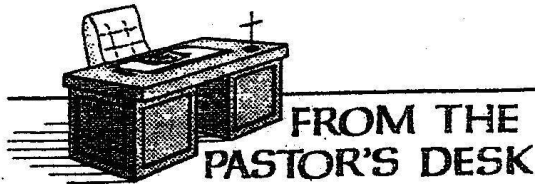
## Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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

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



**November 2013**

Dear Friends,

There is an old *New England saying* - No flowers, no fruits, no leaves, November. While we may begin the month with sightings of a few of each, by the end of the month, the saying will be true.

As if to make up for all the deprivation outdoors, the November calendar for Grace UMC reveals much to anticipate indoors. Here are some of the highlights:

Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> - All Saints Sunday Remembrance Candles during worship

Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> - Adult Bell Choir rehearsals begin - 6:15-7. All welcome!

Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Brown Bags handed out

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> - Gingerbread House classes begin - 9-Noon. Free will offering

Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> - Fresh Ham Dinner - 4:30-7?

Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Bargain Shed closes until Spring – Noon

Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> - Greening of the Church during Fellowship Time

In the warm summery months many of us tend to take the church for granted. We're glad it's here, but we want to take advantage of easy traveling weather to spread our wings and enjoy what else life has to offer.

As the first golden days of Fall turn to the cold and dark days of fall, however, Grace UMC becomes a kind of shelter, a welcome home for our chilled spirits. It is then that we especially realize its importance in our lives.

This is the month of Thanksgiving. As we thank God for food, families, friends, and homes, let us also express in words and deeds our thanks for Grace UMC.

Thankfully,  
*Pastor Judi*



## LAST MINUTE OCTOBER REMINDERS

The "Bewitching Buffet" and Halloween Party are scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. A free "kid friendly" dinner will be served buffet style at 5:30 followed by the party. Children should come in costume and will be able to play games, do crafts and wander through the "haunted hallway" courtesy of the Youth Group. If you would like to donate food items or help in the kitchen before, during or after the party we would really appreciate your help. Please contact Kate Robertson at 756-2388 or [rarksr@gmail.com](mailto:rarksr@gmail.com) with any questions.

For your trick-or-treaters, instead of giving candy on Halloween, the Book Nook is offering children's books to you at 9 for \$1 if you'd like to help keep kids reading. This is a special treat from the normal 25 cents each or 5/\$1 that you would normally pay.

The Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is inviting designers – professional and amateur – to submit designs for a new Conference logo. The deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>. If interested, see the announcement and rules on the bulletin board.



Homecoming Sunday Potluck

## SUNDAY SCHOOL IN NOVEMBER

The theme for November is Prophets and Kings as the Sunday School students make their way through the Old Testament.

The following crafts will enhance their time together:

*November 3* – Thanksgiving Brown Bag Coloring with Edna Rominger  
*November 10* – Elijah and the Priests of Baal Music with Sharon Phillips  
*November 17* – Elisha and the Poor Widow Craft with Christine Frazee  
*November 24* – Huldah Interprets the Sacred Scroll Craft with Sue Eccleston

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome into the congregation:

- **Lionel & Tracy Harris.** Lionel is employed in Albany and

Tracy works at home on Hillcrest Drive in Ravena. They are the proud parents of **Rhylee**, 13 months old.

16 Alice Ross  
16 Pastor Judi  
18 Jay Ingraham  
20 Chris Ingraham

- **Jeffrey & Joyce Schoenig.** Jeffrey is employed in Albany and Joyce is employed in Troy. They enjoy event organizing and landscaping.

We're excited to welcome you into our church family!

## BIBLE SUNDAY

Bible Sunday is November 24<sup>th</sup>. We will once again be providing free Bibles at several community locations.



Birthday greetings go out to:

3 Devonna Quinn  
3 William Haslett  
4 JoAnne Burrill  
8 Andrew Ginder  
9 Liz Spence  
11 Cindy Bliss  
11 Jessica Ingraham

## BARGAIN SHED SALES

The Bargain Shed volunteers had a very busy last week in September. In preparation for the Fall Fair on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the whole week prior to the big event was spent revamping the entire shop. Fall and winter clothes, shoes, outerwear, etc. were put out and spring/summer items stored for 2014. Household items with a fall/seasonal look were unpacked and displayed. In addition, Halloween and Thanksgiving arrangements were completed.

Because we close before the Christmas season begins, much of our space was filled with an early festive look. At the end of the day, we were able to contribute \$560 to the total receipts from the Fair. Many thanks to all our workers (and it is work!) for another job well done.

Our closing date this year is November 23<sup>rd</sup>. During the last two weeks (November 11 – November 23) we will be having a \$3/bag sale of all clothes, shoes, handbags, hats, etc. In addition, there will be other sales of seasonal items.

Be sure to check us out---and tell your friends!

YTD sales for the Bargain Shed as of October 20<sup>th</sup> are **\$6,390!**

## **ADULT BELL CHOIR START-UP**

Every Tuesday is Bell Choir practice beginning November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm, and all adults are welcome. Not being able to read music is no problem as the director will simply point to you when it's your turn to play your bell. For questions, call Fran at the church office.



## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Thank you so much to everyone who helped re-cover the pews. It was really a nice collaboration. We got a little messy, made some friends, learned to use new tools and have a greater appreciation of the seat that we sit on! A special thank you goes out to

Eleanor Moon who didn't miss a single pew recovering session over the two months. She mastered the art of recovering the rounded corners of the pews and stapled each one. Thank you!

## **IDEAS SOUGHT**

We are looking for a creative way to display a beautiful Lenox statue of the children with Jesus from Matthew 19. It was donated to the church from the Bargain Shed. It is an original bone china sculpture from Lenox Collections called "The Children's Blessing." We would love to display this statue in a way that would allow our children to appreciate it and keep it safe from little hands. Any ideas? Volunteer to build? Please contact Pastor Judi.

## **FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Sunday School students would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of their bake sale. The children baked chocolate chip cookies and pumpkin muffins which they sold at coffee hour on October 6<sup>th</sup>. They raised \$60 to put toward their UNICEF trick or treating fund. Thank you!

The students made birdhouses to sell at the fall fair and there are still some left

if you'd like to purchase one for yourself or as a gift.

Did you do a random act of kindness to someone in the community this summer? Check out the bulletin board as you enter the church to see some of the returned cards. If you still have those postcards sitting at home, it's never too late to make a positive impact on someone's day.

The grade 4-6 class (taught by Mike Mattick and Dave Crist) are doing a silent auction to benefit Andrew Ginder's Albany Med NICU fund. Two Bethlehem Ski Club passes to Jiminy Peak will be available to bid on. Each pass includes 7 Saturdays or 7 Sundays (you choose) from 2-6:30. For more information or to bid by email contact [mikemattick@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemattick@yahoo.com) by October 25<sup>th</sup>.



## **A VETERANS DAY PRAYER**

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

—*Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips*

## **BOOK NOOK SALES UPDATE**

Sales for the Book Nook as of October 20<sup>th</sup> are **\$9,800!**

## **ABUNDANT BLESSINGS**

There is plenitude in God. That great fact must never be lost or obscured. We must not exchange this immense graciousness for a few scraps of human morality or a few shopworn proverbs. God is a vast reservoir of blessing who supplies us abundantly.

—Eugene H. Peterson, *Traveling Light*



**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 **December** issue of *The Messenger* is **November 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

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

*or*

fax to: **731-8994**