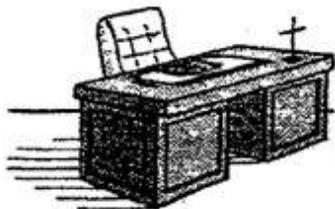




The Messenger
Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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



**FROM THE
PASTOR'S
DESK**

March 2014

Dear Friends,

On Wednesday, March 5th, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. We will have a potluck supper and brief service of ashes, similar to last year's service, at 6pm around the tables in Fellowship Hall.

On each of the Lenten Sundays a family from the congregation will lead us in the ritual that extinguishes a Lenten candle. On Palm Sunday (April 13th,) the beginning of Holy Week, the Nightingales will sing, and the congregation will receive palm branches.

On the following Thursday the Service of Tenebrae (darkness) will take place in Fellowship Hall around tables set up in the shape of a cross. The service will be preceded with a potluck dinner at 6:00, remembering how Jesus' last supper was just that - a supper.

On the next evening, Good Friday, the Evangelism Committee will host a salad and sandwich supper with the showing of 65-minute video, The Story of Jesus Through the Eyes of Children.

On Easter Sunday, April 20th, our congregation will once again host the RCS Association of Churches' Sunrise Service followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall. At the worship service at 10:30 beautiful flowers will adorn our Sanctuary.

Lent may not have the fun and excitement of the Advent season. It lacks the summer-into-fall location of Kingdombide. But Lent has something no other season has, and that is its culmination in Easter, with the Sunrise Service, lilies, and egg hunt that celebrate the defeat of death's permanence in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now death is a doorway, not a destination.

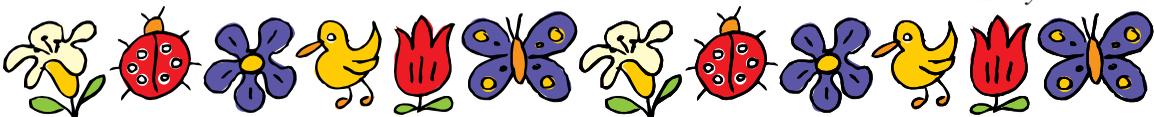
May the Lenten Season be for you and for me a time of rich renewal.

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Judi

Unconditional Love

No matter what sin we have committed, no matter how terrible it may be, God loves us.

-Billy Graham



SUPER SOUPER BOWL

I want to thank everyone who participated in our 2014 Soup sale for the Souper Bowl of Caring...including the Youth who made the brownies.

We set our own record that Sunday morning with 15 different soups; the most ever and we raised \$321; our best yet.

Our totals for our 8 years of participating are \$2,396 and 667 food items. We added 45 food items on February 9th. I will continue to add the food times that are brought in on Sunday mornings. Keep up the great work.

If you would like to see a few pictures of the soup sale, you can see them on our Facebook page.

-Barbara Coryell



FOR 2013

Anyone wishing to receive a receipt for their 2013 contributions to the General Fund, please contact Don Moon in person or call him at 756-6920.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN MARCH

"Jesus On the Way to Jerusalem" is the theme of the curriculum for the younger Sunday School children. Jerusalem is where Jesus would eventually be arrested, convicted, executed, and resurrected. The craft activities are as follows:

March 2 – Jesus and the Children - All-Sunday School activity with Kate Robertson

March 9 – Jesus heals a man born blind - Blind-fold games with Tracy Harris.

March 16 – Jesus invites Zacchaeus - Music with Sharon Phillips

March 23 – The Lord's Supper - Bread-making with Christine Frazee

March 30 – Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane - Sculpture with Barb Coryell

BOOK NOOK UPDATE

The Book Nook's Spring Book Sale and Mini-Rummage Sale will be **MARCH 13th** (6-8pm), **14th** (9am-3pm & 6-8pm), and **15th** (9am-3pm).

Food (hot dogs, salads, cakes, muffins) and beverages (coffee, soda) will be available for sale from the kitchen on Friday and Saturday.

We will be setting up all week from 9am-3pm and 6-8pm. Needless to say, we NEED your help:

- Sorting books
- Putting books out
- Set up Mini-Rummage Sale
- Staff sale days
- Take down crew

These are some of the jobs that will need to be done and all help is welcome!

If you have books you can spare, we would welcome them. Yours might be just the one somebody is looking for.

Please come by and help or at least buy a book. You never know...it may be a long, hot summer!

Sign-up sheets will be posted but you are welcome any time. Our goal is to sell \$1,500. Won't you please pitch in to help?

P.S. As of February 16th, sales for the Book Nook are at **\$925!**



BARGAIN SHED NEWS

Opening day is approaching and in spite of our recent snow, we are looking forward to that time.

Part of our work is in the planning so with that in mind, all workers (and anyone interested in working) are invited to bring a bag lunch to the Church fellowship hall on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**. We will be meeting at 10:30am to discuss business and will then have lunch together. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Please join us.

As noted in the last issue of the news letter, **SATURDAY, APRIL 5th** is the big day. Hours and days that the Shed will be open will remain the same (Tuesday morning, Thursday evening and Saturday morning). Most of our volunteers will be returning, but we are in need of someone for Saturday mornings. Please pray on the matter and consider being part of this fun and worthwhile Church project.

During the week prior to April 5th, donations (in clean, working order, please) may be made any time the Shed is open. Our first work day will be **Saturday, March 29** from 9-12 noon. Hours for the next week will be listed in the April news letter.

For your information, following is a general list of the types of items we sell:

- seasonal clothing & shoes (men's, women's, children's)
- clothing accessories (belts, scarves, hats, ties, etc.)
- jewelry
- small appliances
- linens
- glassware
- china/silverware
- craft items
- seasonal decorative items
- small furniture pieces
- knick knacks & other miscellaneous items

We cannot accept TVs or computers.

For those of you who may not have visited the Bargain Shed, we hope you will stop in. And for our regular patrons, we have missed you. See you soon!!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY

The Sunday School would like to remind the congregation that they are collecting snacks and goodies to send off to our college students. If you are able to contribute food or make a cash donation to help with the shipping costs, the students are sure to love getting a package from their friends at

Grace UMC to remind them we are thinking of and praying for them.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to everyone who will be celebrating in March:

- 6 Fran Lobdell
- 13 Dotty Backlund
- 14 Sandy Racey
- 16 Logan Moss
- 19 Vera Mahnken
- 20 Erick Mattick
- 20 David Sugrue
- 21 Ray & Jan Bradshaw
- 21 Emily Buckley-Crist
- 26 Mary Alice Van Wie
- 27 Joseph Bliss
- 29 James June

SAVE THE DATE

April 18th, 2014 - Good Friday

The Evangelism Committee will host a special viewing of "*The Story of Jesus - Through the Eyes of Children*"

6pm – Dinner We'll offer a wonderful menu of finger sandwiches, salads, jell-o, cookies and beverages.

7pm – *Movie* You'll notice familiar scenes from the original film and it's only 68 minutes long.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

Lent, the season of the church year that's associated with repentance, begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

- It causes us to **STOP**. Lent says, “Stop and rest awhile,” as well as “Stop doing wrong.”
- It tells us to **LOOK**. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to **LISTEN**. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren't only important for our safety in travel; they're also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SPAGHETTI DINNER

While not official, we have it on good authority that there were 93 tickets sold at the annual spaghetti dinner and \$853 collected! Thank you to everyone that pitched in to help make it happen...in spite of the uncooperative weather leading up to the event.

WHO ARE YOU WEARING?

Before the Oscars, a big question for every glamorous celebrity is “Who are you wearing?” Fashion reporters and fans are eager to discover and imitate the latest designers and styles.

Few of us will ever walk the red carpet in Hollywood, yet we receive a much more impressive wardrobe makeover when we accept Jesus as our Savior. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus turned our filthy rags of sin into dazzling white robes of righteousness (see Isaiah 61:10).

This righteousness is embellished with good works that speak to our vibrant faith. How evident is your new “outfit” to people around you? As you get dressed each day, consider whether you're living in such a way that people will wonder “Who are you wearing?”

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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 **April** issue of *The Messenger* is **March 23rd**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**