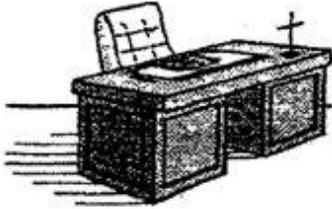




*The Messenger*  
Grace United Methodist Church  
16 Hillcrest Drive  
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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



**FROM THE  
PASTOR'S  
DESK**

**May 2014**

Dear Friends,

As we long for warm weather, leftover piles of dirty snow remind us how tenuous our hold is on the Spring proclaimed by the calendar. Just a few short weeks ago I was glancing at our snow-covered backyard while eating breakfast. Suddenly, a chipmunk popped out of a hole in the snow and stood looking around. Desperate for signs of spring, I silently cheered its appearance as proof that Spring had arrived. Within seconds, however, the furry creature took one last look around and disappeared the way it had come.

My fertile imagination began to play with images of the chipmunk returning to its suite of rooms beneath the soil and telling family members that it was still too cold to go above, that snow covered the landscape, and that everyone might just as well go back to sleep for a few more weeks.

I realized that the chipmunk's winter quarters beneath the surface of the snow-hidden soil were probably not as luxurious as I imagined. There really weren't miniature beds down there containing little chipmunks wearing nightcaps, yet the return of the chipmunk to its

hole in the ground reminded me that there is so much more going on in the world than we can see.

Any elementary school child's science book displays cross-sections of life beneath the soil and under the water. Early on we learn about ultraviolet and infrared light our unaided eyes are unable to see and sounds too high and too low for our unaided ears to hear. For all our abilities, we really are quite limited in our understanding.

As our Lenten focus at Church gives way to the joy of Easter, many of us are tempted to disbelieve the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. "It just doesn't make sense," we think. "We're too smart to believe such a made-up story." So we reduce Easter to just the return of Spring, and dismiss its wonder and power with an emphasis on candy and eggs for children. Then we wonder why we feel sad and let down.

Easter is a perfect time to remind each other that there is so much we don't know, so many limitations on our ability to perceive, so much room for possibilities we haven't even thought of yet, not to mention the ones already proclaimed but disbelieved by us - like the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to reveal to us a whole world of relationships and joys about which we were ignorant. That world, He said, is ever more real than the one we can see and hear. The Gift has been given. All that is left is for us to believe it and receive it.

Easter joy to you and yours,  
*Pastor Judi*



## BOOK NOOK UPDATE

The Book Nook is doing incredibly well once again this Spring. Sales figures through April 20<sup>th</sup> are **\$3,942!** Keep sending your reading friends our way!

## MAY IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children will be learning about Peter and the beginning of the Christian Church after the resurrection of Jesus. The Hands-On Time for the younger children will follow this schedule:

*May 4<sup>th</sup>* – All Sunday School Gathering  
– Kate Robertson

*May 11<sup>th</sup>* – Games surrounding Peter's healing of the beggar – Tracy Harris

*May 18<sup>th</sup>* – Peter resuscitates Dorcas – Wanda Whitney

*May 25<sup>th</sup>* – Peter in prison – Songs with Sharon Phillips

## BARGAIN SHED

The Bargain Shed opened for the 2014 season on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. What a great day!

We were delighted to see so many of our customers return and tell us how glad they were that we had reopened. We missed them and they missed us.

We are presently accepting spring/summer clothing and request that you hold up on donating fall/winter items. Our storage area for out-of-season merchandise is very limited. Generally we start receiving fall/winter clothes at the beginning of August. Miscellaneous items (dishes, linens, knick knacks, etc.) may be dropped off any time.

We sincerely thank you for your donations and your continued patronage.

Latest sales for the Bargain shed stand at **\$428** just since April 5<sup>th</sup>!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITY

### Don't Forget Your Bottles!

The Sunday School is collecting recyclable bottles and cans for the next month. The deposit money will go towards our outreach project this month, Smile Train. The kids watched a short video about Smile Train and the organization's first patient to receive free cleft palate surgery 15 years ago. It

was an incredible story about a young girl who wouldn't attend school because of shame over her appearance and the transformation after her surgery. There is a movie called Smile Pinki which is available for anyone in the congregation to borrow if they would like to learn more about this charity. Please fill up the tub outside the office and help us reach our goal of \$250, which is the cost of one surgery. Thank you!

A special thank you to the youth group and members of Friends around the Fireplace for helping stuff the Easter eggs for our Easter egg hunt. Thank you to all the members of our congregation who purchased goodies! We appreciate your help.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> the youth group will be helping to organize and run a birthday party for children living at St. Catherine's shelter. This is the second year our youth have partnered with JazzySun Birthdays to help provide a memorable birthday experience for kids living at the shelter. They will plan games, crafts, fill goodie bags and serve pizza, cake and ice cream to the kids during the party.



## **Mark Your Calendar!**

On May 18<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Friendship Sunday. Please consider inviting a friend (or friends!) to church that day. Each Sunday school student who brings a friend will receive a special surprise.

## **Sunday School Summer Project**

Last summer we asked the children to do Random Acts of Kindness out in the community and to leave a special postcard addressed to the church after completing their good deed. This year, we're asking the students to participate in a new project.

At the start of Sunday School last year, we talked to the kids about what it costs to keep our church running. We discussed how we were making birdhouses to sell at the Fall Fair to help raise money to support the church.

For this summer, the children will receive some "seed money" to start their own fundraiser. The kids would take this money and use the gifts that God has given them to earn money, which they would then donate back to the church in the fall.

Hopefully, through their hard work, the money they raise will exceed the amount that they are given to start their project. Some examples include: Buy ingredients to make into baked goods or candy to sell, buy seeds to plant and

then sell the flowers or vegetables, buy a bucket, soap and sponge and charge to wash cars, purchase supplies and sell homemade crafts or buy supplies and run a lemonade stand. There are lots of opportunities for the kids to sell items or run a car wash during the summer when the Bargain Shed or Book Nook is open. They could also set up a booth at the fall fair to sell whatever craft items they've made.

So if you see any of our youth busy at work, please support them! Parents, please remember to contact Kate or Rick Robertson before June 8<sup>th</sup> in order to receive your child's funding for their project.

## CELEBRATING MOM

In spring 2013, a young man named Aba Atlas wanted to do something special for his birthday, so he gave his *mom* a present — and made a video about the gift and its beloved recipient. (Locate it on YouTube by searching for “iProjectAtlas, Dear Mother.”)

For years, Aba's mother had worked long hours outside the home and then cared for her kids each evening. She'd bought a house so her children would always have a place to call home, yet the mortgage caused her great stress. Working at a \$30,000/year position,

Aba saved enough money to pay off his mom's mortgage and, on his birthday, presented her with a check. According to a caption in the video, her response was “Wow x 9000.”

“I want to celebrate my life by celebrating the woman who gave me life,” Aba says.



Congratulations to those who will be celebrating in May:

- 3 James Quinn
- 4 Brandon Malloy
- 5 Sam & Hazel Lambert
- 5 Marty & Mary Alice Van Wie
- 6 Riley Kellam
- 6 Jay & Chris Ingraham
- 13 Chelsea Youmans
- 17 Maddie McTigue
- 19 Cassandra Contreras
- 19 Rodger & Barbara Coryell
- 20 Ginny Frazee
- 22 Al Burrill

23 Kate Robertson  
27 George June  
29 Paige Roller  
31 Sadie Lambert

## THANK YOU!!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to cleaning up the outside and the inside of our beautiful church. Spring has finally made it and that fresh, clean, airy feeling is everywhere we look around at Grace!

## GOD IS NIGH

The simple but powerful bugle melody “Taps” has been a standard component of U.S. military funerals since 1891. It’s also played during each of the 2,500 military wreath ceremonies conducted every year at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, including those held on Memorial Day.

Many legends exist about the origin of “Taps” — both its melody and its lyrics. The words below, by Horace Lorenzo Trim, make an appropriate bedtime prayer.

Day is done, gone the sun  
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky

All is well, safely rest  
God is nigh.

Fading light dims the sight  
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright  
From afar, drawing near  
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise for our days  
'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky  
As we go, this we know  
God is nigh.



“A child needs your love most when he deserves it least.”

*-Erma Bombeck*



“Being considerate of others will take [you] further in life than any college degree.”

*-Marian Wright Edelman*





# Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

**Directions:** First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

## MOTHERS

Eve<sup>31</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Sarah<sup>23</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Rebekah<sup>7</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Rachel<sup>13</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Leah<sup>12</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Zilpah ..... bore .....  
 Bilhah<sup>34</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Jochebed<sup>34</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Naomi<sup>19</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Ruth<sup>2</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Hannah<sup>14</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Bathsheba<sup>26</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Elizabeth<sup>10</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Mary<sup>3</sup> ..... bore .....  
 Eunice<sup>6</sup> ..... bore .....

## CHILDREN

Cain, Abel<sup>25</sup> and Seth<sup>11</sup>  
 Isaac<sup>18</sup>  
 Jacob and Esau<sup>15</sup>  
 Benjamin and Joseph<sup>31</sup>  
 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,  
 Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah<sup>33</sup>  
 Gad and Asher<sup>24</sup>  
 Dan and Naphtali<sup>36</sup>  
 Moses<sup>38</sup>  
 Mahlon and Kilion<sup>32</sup>  
 Obed<sup>5</sup>  
 Samuel<sup>21</sup>  
 Solomon<sup>42</sup>  
 John the Baptist<sup>37</sup>  
 Jesus<sup>9</sup>  
 Timothy<sup>4</sup>



“ \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 ..... 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20  
 \_\_\_\_\_ W \_\_\_\_\_  
 21 22 23 24 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33  
 \_\_\_\_\_ P !”  
 34 35 36 37 38 \_\_\_\_\_ 39 40 41 42 43 44

**PROVERBS 23:25, NIV**

Answer: "May your ... mother rejoice; may she who gave you birth be joyful!" Proverbs 23:25, NIV

**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 **June** issue of *The Messenger* is **May 18<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**