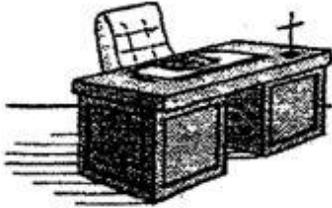




*The Messenger*  
Grace United Methodist Church  
16 Hillcrest Drive  
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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



**FROM THE  
PASTOR'S  
DESK**

**September 2014**

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, my sermon focused on the Canaanite woman mentioned in Matthew 15:21. She was desperately waiting for someone to heal her daughter. In my sermon I emphasized that waiting is hard. No one knows that more than a parent waiting for a cure for their child.

When the Canaanite woman saw Jesus, she started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

Jesus replied to her "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

Upon hearing these words from Jesus, the Canaanite woman argued with Him. "Yes, Lord," she said, "yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

Her heart must have been pounding at the audacity of her words, but Jesus replied, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

Her daughter was healed instantly. At last the waiting was over for the Canaanite woman and her daughter.

Waiting is hard. It has been a summer of waiting for you and for me as we have been waiting for our bishop to reveal his wishes for this congregation and for me.

My family and I had been waiting for our vacation, and a couple of weeks ago Dashanna flew to Colorado to visit our next-to-youngest-daughter, and they planned to meet up with us a week later for our family reunion in Maine. Allen and I packed the car and left Ravena for the 5-hour trip to Maine. As we drove through Albany and then up Route 7 in Troy, the accumulated tension began to roll off our shoulders. We got as far as the VT border when my cell phone rang. It was the District Superintendent.

It's never a good idea to take a call from your boss when you're on vacation!

He was calling to tell me that the request I had made at the Bishop's suggestion to leave Grace UMC for another congregation had been approved; that the bishop wished me to serve here until the end of August, that my family and I will be living in my husband's parsonage in Lansingburgh, and that I will be receiving a new church in that area.

So the waiting is over. Like the Canaanite woman you and I can begin to anticipate a new future.

There are many questions still to be answered, but the general direction has been made clear. Allen and I have toured the Lansingburgh parsonage and are excited by its wide front porch, spacious rooms, hardwood floors, and stone fireplace. We have begun packing our hundreds of books and trying to envision where each item will fit in our new location.

I leave with the assurance that if you look to God's leading you will be in good hands. I am grateful for the connections we have made and the good work we have done together. May our prayer always be that God's will is done.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Judi*





Pastor Judi would like to thank everyone for their expressions of affection, kindnesses, and good wishes.

## PASTOR/PARISH RELATION COMMITTEE

As we say “Goodbye” to Pastor Judi, the Committee has been informed that Bishop Webb is planning to appoint an interim, part-time pastor to Grace UMC beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>.

NOTE: Until the new Pastor is in place, items on the September calendar could change. Perhaps leaving things as they have been in the past will encourage folks to continue participating in things like Friends Around the Fireplace and the Toddlers, Twos and Threes gatherings. Any changes to these scheduled things will need to be addressed weekly with the congregation on Sundays.



Sunday School starts up again on the **14<sup>th</sup> of September**. We'll celebrate by having a Pot Luck Coffee Hour. Please welcome back our children by bringing a dish to share.

Thank you to everyone who has donated mason jars to the Sunday School. Come visit our table at the Fall Fair to see what we make with them!

The Sunday School had an enjoyable get-together at the Robertson's house on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Kids played, food was eaten and plans were hatched for the Back-to-School party. Thank you to: Curtis and Mark for offering to create and produce flyers, Marlene for publicity, Wendy for investigating sponsors, Mike for offering his culinary talents and Stephanie for finding a verse to attach to all the backpacks. It was nice to have everyone's input regarding the party as well as Sunday School for the fall.

Here's a picture from the get together:



## Help Wanted!

Since we have several new members of our congregation with small children who are too young to participate in Sunday School, we would like to offer regular Nursery services. If you are available to help watch our little ones, please see Tracy to sign up. Even one Sunday every few months would be helpful!

We are also looking for members of the congregation interested in helping out with Sunday School. We are changing our format slightly this year and will be teaching in a "one room schoolhouse" style. If you have a favorite bible story that you would like to teach the children, please see Kate Robertson. We would be grateful for your experience and help!

Sunday School is held during Church service. The Adult and Youth classes are held at 9am on Sunday mornings.

For those reading this by e-mail (apologies that the hard copy won't be out until Sunday), there might still be time for you to stop by the **Fall Fair** Committee meeting that will take place on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Any and all Church members are welcome to attend and add their ideas and assistance to try to make this a very successful endeavor on **September 20<sup>th</sup>** between the hours of **8am and 2pm.**

What we can tell you is that there will be more space outside for vendors, the Bouncy-Bounce Castle will be back with better adult supervision, and we hope to have the Child ID Program back this year.

Curtis and Stephanie Canham have lined up fantastic items and opportunities for the Silent Auction. The Book Nook and the Bargain Shed will have special deals that day, as they have in the past.

Breakfast sandwiches and hamburgers and hot dogs will be sold, as well as bottled water.



Just a reminder that the Evangelism Committee has designated two Sundays in September for you to invite a friend to church. Of course, you can do that anytime, but we want these two Sundays to be special for your guest.

The day following the Fall Fair is Pre-FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY – that’s **September 21<sup>st</sup>**. If you bump into someone at the Fair that you haven’t seen in a while or even if you meet a new face, invite them to come back the next day for worship and fellowship.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY on **September 28<sup>th</sup>** will feature a special coffee hour and music by Sharon Phillips.

There will be a special gift for every guest on both Sundays...a gift with no attachments or requirements...simply a gift of appreciation for being a part of our friendship event. We want people

to enjoy their visit and feel welcome here.

Start planning for who you'd like to invite and look for the perfect opportunity to do so.

Look on the Name Tag Table for cards that include welcoming and inviting tips from the *Igniting Ministries Handbook*. On the other side of the card, you can write the name of the person you wish to invite.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to those who will be celebrating a birthday or anniversary in September:

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

## BARGAIN SHED NEWS

The workers at the Bargain Shed have been busy this past week changing stock from spring/summer to fall/winter. By the time you receive this newsletter, the shop should be filled with seasonal items.

Then in a few weeks, we will be readying the shed for the Church's Fall Fair. All this means a busy, busy crew. If you feel the urge to lend a hand, please see Edna Rominger.

Looking ahead, our closing date for the year will be the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Stop in and see us!

Year-to-date sales for the Bargain shed stand at **\$3,830!**

## TRUSTEES

We will be scheduling clean up and repairs in the parsonage. I'm sure Pastor Judi and Pastor Allen have left the parsonage in good condition, but there is probably painting and normal general clean up after a move that will need to be done. A bathroom sink fixture needs replacing, as well as repair work that we had discussed at our last meeting must be addressed.

Other projects at the church are in the works, once our financial difficulties are resolved. No unnecessary funds will be spent, nor projects undertaken, until the Trustees, Finance Committee and Administrative Council feel we are able to cover expenses and there is a true need.

– Ken Bliss

## BOOK NOOK UPDATE

HUGE congratulations and thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the Huge Book Sale. A note from Joy Mayo:

*The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual HUGE BOOK SALE was a HUGE success. In fear of leaving out a name, I'll just say OUR team was outstanding (especially Wanda and Alan Whitney). The goal we were striving for was \$2000. Our final tally (drum roll, please)...\$3,129!*

Sales for the Book Nook YTD have reached **\$9,326!**

## THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

These days, there's a smartphone app for just about everything. But what about spiritual concerns? Where can you turn?

- Depressed? Try the Joy app.  
Read Isaiah 51:11.
- Tired? Try the Renewal app.  
Read Isaiah 40:30-31.
- Unsettled? Try the Peace app.  
Read Philippians 4:7.
- Unloved? Try the Love app.  
Read Romans 8:38-39.
- Worried? Try the Refuge app.  
Read Psalm 46:1.
- Fearful? Try the Power app.  
Read 2 Timothy 1:7.
- Guilty? Try the Forgiveness app.  
Read Colossians 1:13-14.
- Praying? Try the Prayer app.  
Read 1 John 5:14-15.

The Scriptures are God’s storehouse of meaningful applications for what we face every day. Think of the Bible as the iTunes Store of spiritual apps. Best of all, everything’s free!

– Timothy Merrill

## CAN THE MESSENGER SERVE YOU BETTER?

Do you have information about something happening within Grace UMC? *The Messenger* is a wonderful way to get the word out. If the congregation knows about things in advance, it gives you a better chance of having a good turnout. Folks getting the newsletter can even help you spread the word. When you are

planning events around our church family, please stop and think “Would this be something that would benefit by being published in the church newsletter?”

## SHOWING SOME SPINE

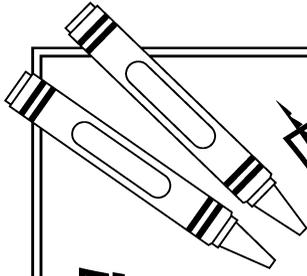
Because of a back injury, a teacher had to wear a plaster cast around his upper body. It fit under his shirt and wasn’t noticeable at all. On the first day of school, still wearing the cast, he walked confidently into a classroom full of rowdy students.

After giving a lecture and assignment, the teacher opened the window and busied himself at his desk. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he grabbed his stapler and stapled the tie to his chest. Needless to say, the teacher had no trouble with discipline that year.



“Our walk counts far more than our talk, always!”

– George Mueller



# PUZZLE

## Think about these things ...

With so many things to remember each day, the apostle Paul provides guidelines in Philippians 4:8 (NIV) for what should fill our minds.

**Directions:** Match each word in column 1 to the word in column 2 that means the same thing. Then use the words from column 2 to fill in the boxes below.

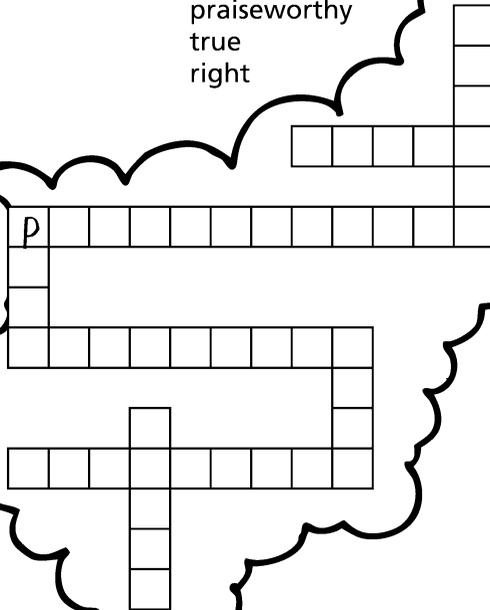
### COLUMN 1

correct  
commendable  
extremely good  
having high moral principles  
deserving respect  
pleasant  
real  
wholesome

### COLUMN 2

excellent  
lovely  
noble  
admirable  
pure  
praiseworthy  
true  
right

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable** — if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy** — think about such things."  
Philippians 4:8, 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](http://www.graceumcravena.org)**



Deadline for articles for the **October** issue of *The Messenger* is **September 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

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

or

fax to: **731-8994**