



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

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Rev. David E. Smith
Pastor

October 2014

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

A Time of Joy – It has been a joy being your pastor during this first month of our time together.

An Invitation – It has been good getting to know some of the people who are part of Grace. I hope that in the days to come to get to know more of you. I invite you to stop by the office when I am in Ravena, call me on my cell phone at 572-4051, or contact me by email at revdavid76@gmail.com. I am in Ravena Sunday from 10-3pm, Tuesday from 4-9pm, and Thursday from 10-3pm. I am available for pastoral emergencies at any time. If you or a loved are seriously injured, hospitalized, or experiencing a personal crisis, I want to be there for you regardless of the time

Involved in Ministry - I have learned that Grace United Methodist Church has some very gifted and dedicated individuals. You provide Christian Education not only to those enrolled in Sunday School but also to adults during the Bible study conducted each Sunday morning at 9:30 AM. You reach out to the community through contributions to the community food pantry, Bargain Barn, Book Nook, Toddlers, 2s and 3s Program, Friends Around the Fireplace, providing meals for those struggling with bereavement or family illness, and your participation in Ravena Area Council of Churches.

Lay Leadership Training – Several members in the congregation have expressed interest in receiving training in providing leadership in various areas and will be receiving training through United Methodism's Lay Servant Program. The training will be offered at Grace United Methodist Church with a tentative beginning date of the first week in November. If you would like to learn more about the Lay Servant Program, please contact me.

Criticism of My Ministry – If you have criticism of my ministry or I cause you a problem, I want to know about it so that it can be addressed. Please feel free to discuss it directly with me. If we can't resolve it, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee is the body designated to deal with issues regarding the pastor and other church staff. I will be meeting with Staff-Parish monthly to make sure any issues are resolved quickly.

Your Next Pastor – My appointment to Grace as your pastor is an interim appointment from September 1 – June 30. The Staff-Parish began work on developing a church profile on September 25th for use by the Bishop in selecting the pastor who will be appointed beginning July 1. It is work that will continue on developing the profile until its submission on December 1st. Your input on Grace's strengths and weaknesses, and the skills and leadership style of the next pastor are most important. I invite you to share them with Staff-Parish; Mike Mattick is the chair.

Shalom,
Pastor David

**I use the Hebrew greeting Shalom because it encapsulates what I wish for each of you. Its meaning includes: hello, good-bye, peace, and health.*



OCTOBER SUNDAY SERVICES

October 5 World Communion Sunday
Scripture Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46
Sermon "A New Day"
Hymns #617 I Come with Joy
#383 This is a Day of New Beginnings
#555 Forward Through the Ages

October 12
Scripture Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14
Sermon "Be at Peace"
Hymns #526 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
#2128 Come and Find the Quiet Center
#2036 Give Thanks

October 19
Scripture Exodus 18:13-23; I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Sermon "Members from Congregation Sharing Their Faith"
Hymns #558 We Are the Church
#2040 Awesome God
#582 Whom Shall I Send

October 26
Scripture Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Matthew 22:34-46
Sermon "I Hate to Wait"
Hymns #408 The Gift of Love
#432 Jesu, Jesu
#2171 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

EQUALS AT COMMUNION

After saving England from Napoleon's threats in 1815, the Duke of Wellington achieved hero status. One Sunday as the duke approached the altar for communion, a poor man from London's streets, wearing rags, knelt beside him. The indignant minister whispered for the vagrant to move away. "Don't you realize this is the great Duke of Wellington?" he asked.

When the duke overhead, he responded, "Leave him alone. We're all the same here. The ground is level at the cross."

That's the spirit in which we celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October. Paul says believers share the Lord's Supper by partaking of the "one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). Everyone at the communion table is equal in God's sight, needing his forgiveness and grace.



About 60 people attended our Backpack Blessing Party on August 28th. It was a beautiful night outdoors and thanks to numerous donations from

church members, Hannaford and Stewarts, there was plenty of food and dessert! We would like to extend a special thank you to Rodger Coryell for delivering a beautiful blessing on short notice.



As you can see from the picture below, our congregation was extremely generous with their donations of school supplies. No one expressed a need for supplies at the party, so they were all donated to CHOICES the next day. A special thanks to Wendy Mattick for taking the time to request backpack and school supply donations from Staples and Dick's Sporting Goods.



The Sunday School students filled those donated mason jars with cookie and soup mixes on our first day back to class. It was a messy and chaotic day, but the kids enjoyed themselves and made a great product! All but two of our jars were sold at the Fall Fair and we raised \$102. We were very grateful to all the parents who assisted with our jar making: Stephanie Canaham, Pam Ginder, Kari Roe, Rick Robertson, Adrienne Seymour and Liesel Burnham. We could not have done it without you!!!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to everyone celebrating in October:

- 3 Dashanna Siebold
- 5 Blake & Christine Frazee
- 8 Barbara Coryell
- 9 Juliann Banahan
- 9 Ken (Jake) Bliss
- 11 Ken & Heather Meisner
- 12 Donna Newton
- 12 Rick & Kate Robertson
- 13 Don & Eleanor Moon
- 18 Carissa Van Alstyne
- 23 Hazel Lambert
- 25 Austin Bean
- 26 Danielle Lambert
- 27 Eleanor Moon
- 29 Sam Robertson

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

Just a reminder that our closing date for this year will be November 22nd (the Saturday before Thanksgiving). Stop by and check us out soon. Year-to-date sales for the Bargain shed stand at **\$4,148!** Thanks to everyone!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Just a couple of reminders for your calendar...there will be a Worship Committee Meeting on Tuesday, October 7th at 7pm.

There will be a Halloween gathering on Saturday, October 25th at 5:30pm. We'll host a kid-friendly dinner, games, crafts and a "Haunted Hallway."

Also, there will be a Fresh Ham Dinner in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 15th. Takeouts will be available starting at 4:30pm and there will be continuous seating from 5-7pm.

BOOK NOOK UPDATE

Sales for the Book Nook YTD have reached **\$9,526!** Great job!!

FALL FAIR RESULTS

We had a lot of competition in our community on September 20th. There were town-wide garage sales, plenty of used-items shops locally and the public had lots of options on where to spend their money.

That being said, we ended up with an awesome tally for our Fall Fair efforts

this year. The total reported as of September 22nd is **\$4,065!** Following are a few photos from the event.



Can you guess who these 2 faces belong to?



Bouncy castles are the best!



What is that??



Will it go on?



Ah! ...a minute to sit down!

WHAT'S A CHRISTIAN TO DO WITH HALLOWEEN?

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) "All Hallows' Eve." As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.

Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: In Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is called "seas of light." Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternatives such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that though it's fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy – *hallowed!* – children.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

On Sunday, November 2nd, All Saints Sunday, we will be remembering those who have passed away since November 1st of last year. If you have a loved one who has passed away since November 1, 2014; we would like to remember them during the service on All Saints Sunday. We ask that you contact the church office by phone or email with their name and date of their

death by Wednesday, October 29th so we can be sure they are remembered during the service and their name is included in the bulletin.

EVANGELISM NEWS

The Evangelism Committee would like to remind everyone to continue the spirit of being an inviting church.

Inviting doesn't happen only in May or September but, is a year-round commitment. Just like our "cross necklace" ministry, we should always seek to share our faith in a genuine way.

Please continue to pray. Ask God to open the person's heart to receive your

invitation to church. You'll be amazed at what God can do when we're intentional about sharing our faith. LET'S GROW A CHURCH...we have much to offer and many people are seeking.

BE A FREIND. INVITE A FRIEND TO CHURCH ...not just on Friendship Sunday but, every Sunday!

On Sunday, November 2nd, during our Fellowship hour, the Evangelism Committee will sponsor a Chili Cook-Off. Everyone with a unique or special recipe and competitive nature is encouraged to put your dish to the test! Mark your calendar...more details to come.





A promise to the earth

After the flood in Genesis, God promised to “never again ... destroy all living creatures” (Genesis 8:21, NIV).

Directions: Using the picture clues below, write each small word in the blanks to complete God's promise in Genesis 8:22, NIV.

“As long as the  _ _ _ th

 _ _ _ ures,  _ _ _  _ _ _

and har _ _ _ , c _ _ _ 

and h _ _ _ , $1+2=$  _ _ _ mer

and  _ _ _ ter, day and night

w _ _ _  n _ _ _ r  cease.”

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” (Genesis 8:22, 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



Deadline for articles for the **November** issue of *The Messenger* is **October 19th**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**