



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

[www.graceumcravena.org](http://www.graceumcravena.org)  
518-756-6688

Rev. David E. Smith  
Pastor

**May 2015**

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR**

**“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, ....(Hebrews 12:1)”**

Paul’s words in Hebrews seem like a fitting description to my experience here at Grace. As I reflect upon our celebration of the fifty years of Grace’s existence and my time with you; I am impressed by the level of dedication to providing a place to nurture present members and to reach out to those beyond our walls.

I commend you upon your work to provide a Christian Education program that embraces adults, youth, and children. I feel blessed that Sunday morning worship involves laity in various roles, utilizes a variety of musical styles, has a talented choir, and embraces intercessory prayer as an essential part of worship.

I celebrate your programs that open our doors to the public and offer hospitality, such as: Friends around the Fireplace, Book Nook, Bargain Shed, Toddlers 2s & 3s. These programs of hospitality are complimented by programs that actively seek to provide for those in need through weekly contributions to the Community Food Cupboard at St. Patrick’s, special offerings, and monthly mission outreach programs by the Sunday School. The needs of those who are ill and bereaved are cared for with expressions of sympathy from the Hospitality Committee and our Prayer Blanket Ministry. In addition to reaching out through hospitality and assistance programs, you reach out to share the Good News which motivates and undergird all of our outreach through programs of the Evangelism Committee.

I am grateful for laity that have assumed leadership positions and those who volunteer their time and talent to work with them. It is encouraging to see projects large and small being undertaken to make our facilities and grounds an attractive and efficient center from which to be in ministry.

In addition to the formal programs of the church there are the countless acts of encouragement and informal sharing of one's faith that happen between individuals during various church-related activities and individual encounters.

If you are struggling, please don't forget those who are part of the body of Christ, the Church, here in Ravenna. We want to be there to provide a listening ear, offer words of encouragement, say a prayer on your behalf, to reach out to you with help in the name of Jesus Christ. Please don't hesitate to contact me and let me know if the people of Grace can be helpful to you.

Yours in Christ's Service,



*David E. Smith*

David E. Smith, Interim Pastor



# MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

## **5/3 – Fifth Sunday of Easter - Communion**

Scripture	1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
Sermon	Whose Are We?
Psalter	752 Psalm 22:25-31
Hymns	662 Stand Up and Bless the Lord 397 I Need Thee Every Hour 2226 Bind Us Together
Theme	Jesus is the source of life, all others disappoint.

## **5/10 – Mother’s Day**

Scripture	I John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17
Sermon	Old Rules Made New
Mission Minute	Feeding Our Children
Affirmation	883 We Are Not Alone
Hymns	2074 Shout to the Lord 445 Happy the Home When God is There 428 For the Healing of the Nations
Theme	Jesus fulfills the law with a new rule, love one another.

## **5/17 – Ascension Sunday**

Scripture	Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53
Sermon	Dream Big
Psalter	781 Psalm 47
Hymns	327 Crown Him with Many Crowns 176 Majesty, Worship His Majesty 185 When Morning Guilds the Skies
Theme	God has promised us the power to do great things, dare to dream big.

## **5/24 – Pentecost Sunday**

Scripture	Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:22-27
Sermon	Breaking Down Walls
Affirmation	885 A Modern Affirmation
Hymns	2236 Gather Us In 539 O Spirit of the Living God 2120 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
Theme	God sends the Holy Spirit to break down walls.

## **5/31 – Trinity Sunday**

Scripture	Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
Sermon	Choices
Affirmation	886 World Methodist Social Affirmation
Hymns	662 Stand Up and Bless the Lord 593 Here I Am, Lord 2171 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
Theme	God offers power for a life filled with purpose.

## BEST WISHES, LISA!



Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> was a bittersweet day. Our church organist and choir director, Lisa D'Arcangelis completed 12 years of service at Grace UMC and has accepted a position at her home church; St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Cossackie.

Lisa was honored at a reception following the morning worship service. Her guests included John Bernesser, her Mom, and Lisa's three children. Daughter, Giovanna, accompanied our choir on her flute.

During the reception Lisa was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service as well as a gift from the whole congregation. While we will miss her greatly, we wish her the best in this new chapter of her musical career.

Lisa promises to come back from time to time for a visit...like our annual dinners! She may even volunteer to hostess again. (See Lisa, we *were* listening!)



## CROP WALK

Please don't forget the CROP walk on Sunday, **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, The walk starts in Mosher Park with registration at 1:00pm and walking at 1:30pm. There are forms in the fellowship hall – if you don't want to walk, please consider sponsoring a walker. Thank you.

For more info contact Jan Bradshaw at 577-3599.

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE EVENTS

The Evangelism Committee has designated the first Sunday in May as "Friendship Sunday" at Grace. The idea of this special day is to **invite a friend to church...it's that simple!**

All visitors will receive a special gift that day as a “thank you” for accepting the invitation and being a part of our Friendship Day celebration.

Just imagine if everyone brings a friend to church...the pews would be full! We know how wonderful it is to be part of this church family...won't you invite someone you know to see why Grace is such a special place to worship and fellowship?

Please remember the date...**MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>** and be intentional about bringing someone to church. We also plan to have a special time of fellowship after the service.

On Thursday, **May 7<sup>th</sup>** please join us at 7pm for guided prayer on National Day of Prayer. Christians across our nation will join together to pray for our government leaders, military, education, family, community and our churches. If you have questions, you may contact Phyllis Shook for more details.

On Friday, **May 15<sup>th</sup>** at **7pm**, we will host our first talent show at "Grace's Coffee House." Snacks and coffee will be served. A free-will offering will allow the committee to purchase more prayer blankets. We will be hosting three events over the next several months. The next two scheduled dates are August 21<sup>st</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>.

We'd love to "book" your act! A sign-up sheet for the May 15<sup>th</sup> event will be available in Fellowship Hall.

## **CARING FOR THE CHILDREN**

The well-being of children is something that tugs at our hearts. Right now Bread for the World is asking us to put our concern into action by addressing the problem of hunger as it affects our children. Please take the time to read the material below from their web site: [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

Then join us on **May 10<sup>th</sup>** for a special Mission Minute during Sunday morning worship and a time to take action through the simple act of writing a letter.

“Food Matters to Children” by Bread for the World Staff

Food matters to children. In fact, it's more critical to them than to adults. Proper nutrition in a child's earliest years is essential for well-being as he or she grows. Well-fed children are healthier, have fewer behavioral problems, and learn more easily. Yet nearly 16 million children in the United States—one in five—live in households that struggle to put food on the table.

We know intuitively that children need our collective protection. Jesus told us to embrace children, “for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” (Matthew 19:14). In this season of Easter, let’s pray for the children of the world as well as those who care for them.

Join us as we pray for:

1. *Children around the world;* that they would have the food they need for healthy development.
2. *Those who care for children,* that they would have access to the resources necessary to provide for those under their care.
3. *Our leaders;* that they would support children and their caregivers in the decisions that they make for this country.

God’s heart is given to all, with a special place for our children. We must work together for a world in which everyone has enough food. Thanks for taking the time to pray for children and those who care for them.

## **FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We had a nice day for our Easter Egg hunt this year, although unfortunately,

(or maybe fortunately for them!) we had a much smaller crowd of children looking for eggs.



*Mark your calendars – this is something new!*

On **May 17<sup>th</sup>** we are having a special pancake breakfast prior to church. From 8-10am we will be serving a free pancake breakfast to the congregation. As a fundraiser for our outreach project, which is the STRIDE wounded warrior project, the children (and anyone else in the congregation!) can pay \$1 to wear their PJs to church that morning. Just roll out of bed and join us for breakfast and church!

**We need your help!**

This summer, we will once again be collecting school supplies for local children who are in need. We will be approaching the Food Pantry, Choices and the elementary school nurses, but if you know of someone who is having financial difficulty and would appreciate help buying school supplies for their children, please let Kate Robertson know. We will once again

look to the generosity of our congregation to provide those school supplies, so if you see sales now, please pick up folders, index cards, notebooks, pencils, markers, paper, crayons and binders. Anything is appreciated!

## **BOOK NOOK**

The year-to-date sales for the Book Nook are **\$4,213!** Kudos to everyone who contributes: those stocking the shelves, those buying, and those who donate to this ministry.

## **GRACE'S NEXT PASTOR** By David E Smith, Interim Pastor

As many of you are aware I was appointed to Grace as an interim for the period September 1 – June 30. Some have asked whether any potential candidate has yet been identified and the answer is no. Please note that information on the Conference web site concerning Grace United Methodist is in error. In the process of moving information from former Conference web site to the new web site errors occurred affecting some of the church listings.

The appointment process is a complicated process that involves making sure each of the 930 local churches in Upper New York Annual

Conference are provided with pastoral care. When the Bishop and District Superintendents identify a potential candidate, the candidate and Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee are notified and an interview is set up to determine if this is a good match. Only after this interview has taken place will a decision be made about the appointment and a formal announcement be made first to affected congregation(s) and then to other interested parties.

Selection of the new pastor for Grace will be based upon information provided in our local church profile and information the Bishop and District Superintendents have about available pastors.

The District Superintendent and person responsible for administering the Conference Web Site have been notified of the error in Grace's listing.

## **BARGAIN SHED NEWS**

The Bargain Shed opened on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and it was a very good day! We had many donations and enjoyed chatting with our past and new customers.

We have accepted a few pieces of furniture and will continue to do so as

space allows. Some of those donated have already been sold. In addition, if you have seasonal clothing, jewelry, linens, china, knick knacks, accessories, etc (clean and in good working order, please) we would be delighted to have them. Please keep in mind that we do not accept TVs, computers or exercise equipment.

If you have any questions regarding drop off, below is a list of volunteers and when they are working at the Shed:

*Tuesday am* – Fran Hoffman, Alice Ross, Adrienne Seymour  
*Thursday eve.* – Dottie Backlund, Fran Lobdell, Cindy Bliss, Joyce Schoenig  
*Saturday am* – Jan Bradshaw, Edna Rominger, Kate Robertson

While the Shed has only been open a few weeks this year, sales are already at **\$437!** Great job by all who worked so hard to make it happen!

## **MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to all those who will be celebrating a birthday or an anniversary in May:

3 James Quinn  
4 Brandon Malloy  
5 Sam & Hazel Lambert

5 Marty & Mary Alice Van Wie  
6 Rilley 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 Rolleri  
31 Sadie Lambert

## **THANK YOU!**

We'd like to **Alan Whitney** – for installing the new shelves in the pantry/kitchen storage room. We are sure to fill them up in no time at all!

## **FROM THE TRUSTEES**

Jay Ingraham has been making good progress with the rehabilitation of the parsonage. He has had some help in the process, but not as much as was promised prior to the awarding of the bid. If you have some free time, and are willing to swing a paint brush, a hammer, or even help clean up as work progresses, please contact Jay and coordinate with him. This is not limited to just the men; ladies are welcome as well!

We have contacted Bill French, from Northeast Roofing. His crew has inspected the roof and leaking areas, and plan on repairing the roof as soon as possible. . . weather permitting, this week. He will also give us an estimate on replacing our stone blast roof with a rubber fabric roof, which will eliminate the leaks.

Wanda and Alan Whitney, and their friend Anne Frauenberger have been working diligently on clearing out the parsonage garden, as well as the garden on the patio area. Unfortunately, Ann developed a nasty case of poison ivy on both arms. Undaunted, they, as well as Joy Mayo, are spearheading a church beautification project. They have asked for donations of perennial plants, to be planted around the church and parsonage. Plastic planters are available for parishioners to take home and either bring already mature plants back to the church or to plant seeds, and bring the plants back when ready to be transplanted around the church property.

In conjunction with this project, Mike Mattick is organizing a project for the Sunday School children to clean up and beautify the area in front of the church sign. Jeff Schoenig has volunteered to repaint the Bargain Shed, as well as clear out the area behind it, as a spring and summer project. You may have

noticed the great job Jeff did last year on the church sign out front.

I hope you all have experienced the revitalizing spirit of our church over the past year. With Pastor David's guidance, encouragement and assistance, I have seen a renewed vigor in all we have been able to accomplish, as well as a willingness in us all, to take on whatever problems may come our way. I hope and pray that this spirit continues to grow; that we might not only be able to improve conditions in and around our church, but also increase our out-reach to our community. Thank you for your loving support. If you would label your contribution(s) so that can identify the type of plant it is, it would be greatly appreciated.

*Ken Bliss*



## ADVICE FOR GRADS

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, and to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.



## BREAKFAST IN BED

Two children ordered their mother to stay in bed one Mother’s Day morning. As she lay there looking forward to being brought breakfast in bed, the smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. Finally, the children called her to come downstairs. She found them both sitting at the table eating bacon and eggs.

“As a surprise for Mother’s Day,” one explained, “we decided to cook our own breakfast.”



## A PRAYER FOR MOTHER’S DAY

A young boy had been misbehaving, so his mother sent him to his room. Sometime later, he came out and told his mom he’d prayed about the matter. “That’s good,” she replied. “If you ask God for help to not misbehave, he’ll help you.”

“Oh, I didn’t pray for help behaving,” said the boy. “I prayed for God to help you put up with me.”

## A HYMN FOR PENTECOST

Eighteenth-century brothers John and Charles Wesley, co-founders of the Methodist Church, were prolific hymn writers. At one point, they made a concerted effort to increase the number of Pentecost-related hymns available to worshipers.

Use Charles Wesley’s hymn “O Thou Who Camest From Above” as a prayer that the Holy Spirit will burn brightly in your heart and life today:

*O Thou who camest from above,  
the pure celestial fire to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
upon the mean altar of my heart.*

*There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.*

*Jesus, confirm my heart’s desire  
to work and speak and think for Thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me.*



## BIBLE QUIZ



According to Acts 2, on Pentecost some people accused the disciples of being drunk. Why?

- A. Because they were still asleep at 9 in the morning.
- B. Because all the wine was gone.
- C. Because they were all speaking in foreign languages.
- D. All of the above.



*Answer: C (See Acts 2:4, 13.)*

## A MEMORY FOR MEMORIAL DAY

There is a cemetery in Okinawa where many American military men are buried. Near the entrance to the burial ground, visitors find a thought-provoking statement that we might recall on Memorial Day. The sign reads: "We gave our todays in order that you might have your tomorrows."



## IMPORTANT!

### EARLY DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER

For those of you who may not have seen the email that was sent out by Fran Lobdell to let you know that articles for the June newsletter need to be submitted early in May, I wanted to put a reminder in this issue of the newsletter.

Because of my vacation schedule and due to visiting family, please have any articles to me by **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please consider what you or your committee might have going on in June that our church family should know about so it's sure to get in the next newsletter. Thanks so much for your help!

*Barb*





# Spring has sprung!

God created all the seasons, and each brings unique visuals that remind us of him.

*Directions: Unscramble each phrase to complete Song of Solomon 2:12, NIV. Use the pictures as hints.*

earth on appear the Flowers

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ;



singing come the of has season



the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ,



heard the land our in is of cooing doves

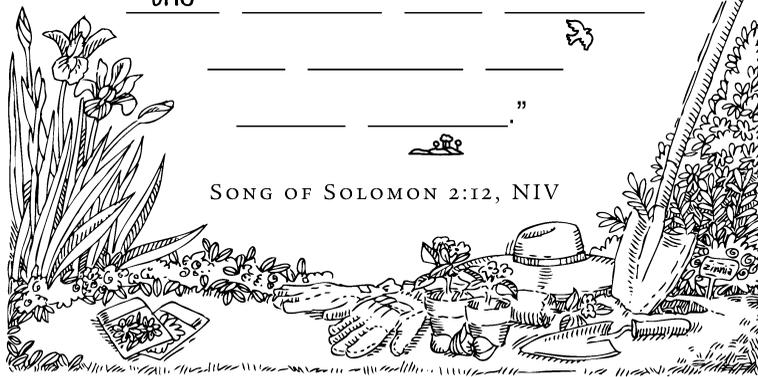
the \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ .”



SONG OF SOLOMON 2:12, NIV



Answers: “Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

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

or

fax to: **731-8994**