



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

www.graceumcravena.org
518-756-6688

Rev. David E. Smith
Pastor

Dedicated to building a strong Christian family for all of God's children, working together for the purpose of putting our faith and love into practice.

July 2015

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

I was pleasantly surprised when Bishop Webb decided to appoint me to Grace United Methodist. I look forward to being in ministry with you during the coming year. I ask for your prayers, ideas, and comments as we seek to live out our mission of building a strong Christian family for all of God's children, working together for the purpose of putting our faith and love into practice. Please feel free to share your reactions to my ministry and the programs of the church.

I invite each of you to be part of the meetings of the Administrative Council as we review ongoing programs and make plans for the future. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. Your input is also invited by the Staff Pastor Parish Committee as they work with employed staff. Please feel free to share any comments or concerns with Mike Mattick.

As your pastor I want to be there for you to provide comfort in time of need and to listen to your questions and concerns related to living out what it means to be a follower of the way of Jesus Christ.

I believe with all my heart that God is at work among the people of Grace United Methodist Church. We have the capability of being a place where individuals can encounter the presence of the living Christ, be enabled to claim what God created them to

be, and be the means by which God's will is realized in ways small and large. Look around, don't you already see signs of it happening? The future holds the promise of exciting things!!

Yours in Christ's Service,



David E. Smith

David E. Smith, Interim Pastor



JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

7/5 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost - Communion

Scripture 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13
Sermon From Weakness to Strength
Affirmation 887 Affirmation from Romans 8
Hymns 2040 Our God is an Awesome God
2130 The Summons
507 Through It All
Theme God's Strength Can Overcome Our Weakness

7/12 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29
Sermon Chosen by God
Psalter 806 Psalm 85
Hymns 57 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
2062 The Lily of the Valley
369 Blessed Assurance
Theme God's Intention is Our Salvation

7/19 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Sermon That We May Be One
Affirmation 881 The Apostles' Creed
Hymns 548 In Christ There Is No East or West
554 All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord
2226 Bind Us Together
Theme Christ's came That We Might Be United in Love

7/26 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21
Sermon Beyond Our Imagining
Psalter 857 Psalm 145
Hymns 617 I Come with Joy
2088 Lord, I Lift Your name on High
156 I Love to Tell the Story
Theme God Desires to Give Us Power to Accomplish Amazing Things

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

Donations to the Bargain Shed have been steady and we thank all who have contributed. We have been having "spot" sales and currently are selling all jeans and capris for \$.50 each. Stop in and check us out.

The Shed will be CLOSED on SATURDAY, JULY 4TH. Enjoy the holiday!

Sales for the Bargain Shed through June 20th are at **\$2,035.75!**

GRACE COFFEE HOUSE

Thanks to the creative energy and enthusiasm of Sharon and Brian Phillips with help from the Evangelism Committee, we had a very enjoyable evening of talent at Grace Coffee House (aka Grace's Fellowship Room).

All who attended were amazed by the talent of our young people and adults who showcased their abilities in music, poetry and storytelling. For those who may have missed our first talent show or have a talent to share, please mark your calendar for **August 21st**.

Admission is free. A free will offering will be received and proceeds will be used for our Prayer Blanket ministry.



Best wishes to all those who will be celebrating an anniversary or a birthday in the month of July:

- 3 Joshua Dedrick
- 3 Janet Mantynen
- 3 Quaniesha Porterfield
- 5 Alan Baumback
- 5 Jean Lyons
- 7 Christine Frazee
- 10 Mike Ellis
- 10 Mark Gordon
- 12 Lidia Ruso
- 13 Jan Bradshaw
- 14 Ken & Cindy Bliss
- 14 John & Pam Ginder
- 14 Ethan Roe
- 14 June Baumback
- 16 Matthew Ginder
- 22 Mike Mattick
- 25 Leland Case
- 26 Karen Black
- 29 Adam & Donna Newton
- 29 Trey Coryell

HELP NEEDED!!!!

Because of a tremendous increase in donations a Summer **HUGE BOOK SALE** will be held on Wednesday, July 29; Thursday, July 30; Friday, July 31 (9am-3pm) and (6-8pm); and Saturday, August 1 (9am-3pm). There will also be a mini-rummage sale. We will begin bringing up the books from downstairs and setting up on Saturday, July 25th (9am-3pm); Sunday after church; and Monday and Tuesday from 9am until finished. Any help you can give would be appreciated.

Our sales goal for this sale is \$1200.

Our sales YTD are **\$5,504!** The Book Nook will be closed on July 4th.

COMMUNING WITH GOD

After Apollo 11 landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, pilot Buzz Aldrin requested via radio that people pause to give thanks for the achievement in their own way. When his broadcast ended, Aldrin read a verse from the Gospel of John and took communion, which his church had sent to space with him.

“It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements,”

the astronaut said. “At the time, I could think of no better way to acknowledge the enormity of the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God.”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2015

Monday July 20 – Friday July 24



Don't miss Vacation Bible School (VBS) as we "...experience God's unstoppable love and discover how to fuel up and move in and through life with God." We will hear exciting Old Testament and New Testament stories, participate in exciting activities, sing some great songs, and have tons of fun in the process. Each evening begins with a light supper at 5:30pm followed by 2 hours of learning and fun from 6-8pm.

Come join us
Monday, July 20 – Friday, July 24
from 5:30pm – 8pm.

A GOD-CREATED SUPER STAR

“God made ... the greater light to rule the day ...” (Genesis 1:16, NRSV).

The first biblical description of Creation reveals that God made the sun — a truly amazing body of light.

At the sun’s center (where the temperature reaches 15 million degrees!), every second, 600 million tons of hydrogen fuse into 596 million tons of helium. The 4 million “missing” tons become sunshine, making life on earth possible. The sun’s magnetic field (which reverses direction every 11 years) and the resulting sunspots and solar flares impact the earth in ways most of us rarely think about.

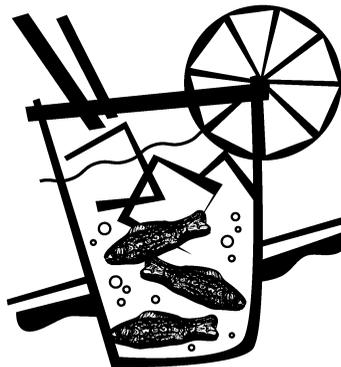
Writes Dennis Overbye in the *New York Times*: “In all of recorded history, as far as scientists have been able to tell, the sun’s output has varied by only a tenth of a percent.” If the sun were more volatile, like many stars, earth would either burn up or freeze at regular intervals.

As you spend time outside this summer, give thanks for this bright marvel that God designed.



OCEAN WATER

After a busy summer day, relax in the shade with this cool drink.



What you need:

- 3 Tablespoons water
- 3 Tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon coconut extract
- 3 drops blue food coloring
- 24 oz. (2 cans) lemon-lime soda
- Clear cup or glass
- Ice
- Swedish Fish candy

What you do:

1. In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the water and sugar. Heat for 1 minute. Stir until sugar is dissolved.
2. Pour the mixture into a pitcher. Add coconut extract, food coloring and soda. Stir.
3. Pour into cup. Add ice and fish. Enjoy!

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



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

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**