



*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

*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.*

**August 2015**

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

### **Summertime Excitement**

This Summer is shaping up to be an exciting time at Grace.

As I write this article we are at the beginning of a week of Vacation Bible School. We had 22 children register for VBS. It has been an action-packed time of fun, enthusiastic singing, and learning about God's love in action with the theme Scripture verse being: "In God we live, move, and exist. Acts 17:28a, CEB." We have a great staff of 18 committed adult volunteers.

The Friends Around the Fireplace, Book Nook, and Bargain Shed are seeing a steady stream of individuals. These activities are much more than a source of income for our church. They provide a place where individuals with limited income can purchase clothing, household items, books, puzzles, and movies. These events are also a place of hospitality where God's love is experienced by all who enter our doors.

Work continues on a much needed refurbishing of the parsonage interior.

Addressing needed attention to the landscaping of the church grounds continues as the Trustees work to make our church inviting to all.

The Youth Group and Book Nook both have a booth at the Farmer's Market held at the Village Office Building each Thursday evening from 4-7pm. This is one more opportunity for our church to be visible in the community.

The Evangelism Committee is getting ready to host its second Coffee House event. They have also begun to discuss plans for sharing about Grace and what we have to offer as a faith community at the Fall Fair. Tentative plans for the Fall Fair include preparing an updated church brochure, a PowerPoint presentation on our church, and a table manned by the Evangelism Committee.

Summer has also been a time ministering to the needs of those in need as we bless prayer blankets, share prayer concerns in church and with the prayer chain, and the pastor makes hospital visits.

Grace United Methodist Church is the hands and feet of Christ at work sharing God's love in a variety of ways.

Yours in Christ's Service,



*David E. Smith*

David E. Smith, Pastor



## AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

### **8/2 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Communion**

Scripture	Ephesians 4:116; John 6:2435
Sermon	Part of the Solution
Affirmation	880 The Nicene Creed
Hymns	555 Forward Through the Ages 629 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart 2223 They'll Know We Are Christians
Theme	To Each is Given a Part to Play in God's Plan

### **8/9 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Sermon	Pick Your Own Sermon Sunday (Sermon will be discussion of Scripture and topics you select; see article.)
Hymns	404 Every Time I Feel the Spirit 2145 I've Got Peace Like a River 431 Let There Be Peace on Earth

### **8/16 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture	Ephesians 5:1520; John 6:5158
Sermon	Eat Hardily
Affirmation	883 We Are Not Alone
Hymns	2038 Father, I Adore You 395 Take Time to Be Holy 526 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Theme	We Need to Feed Our Soul Abundantly

### **8/23 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture	Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69
Sermon	Facing the Enemy
Psalter	804 Psalm 84
Hymns	374 Standing on the Promises 352 Standing in the Need of Prayer 530 Are Ye Able
Theme	We Need to Arm Ourselves Against the Forces of Evil

### **8/30 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Worship Service Outside**

Scripture	James 1:1727; Mark 7:18, 1415, 2123
Sermon	Listen

Affirmation	884	The Korean Creed
Hymns	67	We, Thy People, Praise Thee
	2176	Make me a Servant
	666	Shalom to You
Special Music		Lively Music from VBS
Theme		Christ Calls Us to Listen and Put the Other First

## PICK YOUR OWN SERMON SUNDAY

While I normally start my sermon preparation by reading the Scriptures listed in an ecumenically-produced list as a way to assure over time I cover the Bible as a whole rather than just preaching on favorite verses or topics; on August 9<sup>th</sup> you will be selecting what I preach on. This gives me an opportunity to address the topics or Scripture passages that are important to you. Each person will be given a 3X5 card to write a topic or Scripture they would like the pastor to speak on. These will be collected and I will use the time normally devoted to the Scripture lesson and message to cover as many of the topics or Scripture passages you have selected that time allows. Those I don't cover on August 9<sup>th</sup> will be material for future sermons. You won't want to miss this Sunday as this approach has in the past provided an interesting sermon time.

## BARGAIN SHED BIG SALE!

The Bargain Shed is having a sale on everything in the shop...half-price on our entire stock.

Stop in, look around and you may find just what you're looking for. The sale will run through July and into August.

Beginning in mid-August we will be changing to our Fall/Winter inventory. There are sure to be needed back-to-school items. So come see us...we'll leave the light on!

Sales for the Bargain Shed through July 18<sup>th</sup> are at **\$2,662,25!**

## SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>: Increasing Pastor's Position to Three-Quarter Time

The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee has requested that the pastor's position be increased from half-time to three-quarter time. When the budget for 2015 was prepared there were sufficient funds allocated to allow for paying for this. At present we are over \$6,000 ahead of where we need to be to fully fund the budget.

Increasing the pastor's position to three-quarter time would mean increasing minimum hours/week from 20 to 30 and the pastor being in Ravenna a minimum of four days a week instead of the current three.

The increasing of the pastor's salary requires a vote by a special church conference. There will be one immediately after church on **August 9**.

If you have any questions about this, feel free to talk to Mike Mattick, Chair of the Staff Pastor Parish Relation Committee. Mike's email address is [mikemattick@yahoo.com](mailto:mikemattick@yahoo.com). I know everyone doesn't have email but I hesitate to share other individuals' phone numbers in a document transmitted electronically.

## GRACE COFFEE HOUSE

For those who may have missed our first talent show or have a talent to share, please plan to join us in Fellowship Hall on **August 21<sup>st</sup>**.

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

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

- 4 Jim Youmans
- 9 Ken Bliss
- 9 Elizabeth Robertson
- 9 Brian Phillips
- 10 Audry & George June
- 10 Brian & Sharon Phillips
- 11 Marlene McTigue
- 12 Barb Bullock

- 14 Edna & Ralph Rominger
- 16 Beth Babcock
- 17 Pastor Judi and Pastor Allen
- 18 John Ginder
- 18 Stacey Youmans
- 21 Jonathan Haslett
- 21 Evangelyn Seymour
- 22 Mark Contreras
- 23 Ethan Johnson
- 24 Gabriella Selbe
- 25 Devin Whitney
- 25 Ryan Roe

## HELP NEEDED!!!!

Because this Sale crosses over into August, thought we'd re-run last month's article as a reminder:

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 25<sup>th</sup> (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 **\$7,542!**



## FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

A special thank you to Edna Rominger for setting up and organizing our annual church-wide picnic following Children's Day. We had a beautiful day filled with fellowship and lots of good food to eat. Thank you to Mike Mattick for bringing his grill and to everyone who attended and brought a dish!





The Sunday School is once again collecting school supplies to donate to children in need. Please consider picking up backpacks, notebooks, pencils, crayons, paper, binders, folders, glue and glue sticks and index cards. We will have copies of some of the required school supply lists on the table in front of the office if you would like specifics. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



We are also collecting empty quart mason jars again for our Fall Fair projects. If you have any from last year that you can donate, please put them in the box outside the office. Thank you!



This year the Sunday School will be supporting an organization called Amazima ([www.amazima.org](http://www.amazima.org)) This is a non-profit organization founded in 2006 by an 18-year-old named Katie Davis, from Tennessee. Their mission is to “live out the love of Jesus by educating and empowering the people of Uganda and the communities we serve.” Her story is chronicled in the inspiring book titled “Kisses from Katie”. The Sunday School has purchased several copies of the book for the older students to read over the summer. We will be selling copies of the book as well as handmade jewelry from Uganda at the Farmers Market and Fall Fair this year. Please stop and take a look!





Our second annual Blessing of the Backpacks will take place on Thursday, **August 27<sup>th</sup>** and will include a free dinner as well as ice cream sundaes donated from Stewart's. Mark your calendars and tell your friends! If you are interested in donating to this event, please contact Kate Robertson.



Lidia Marie Ruso has been accepted and plans to attend Hudson Valley Community College this fall majoring in liberal arts with a focus on history. She intends on pursuing a history-related career.

Chelsea Youmans is off to SUNY Adirondack to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Gabriella Selbe is another of our graduates and Gabby's next step is to attend the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, majoring in psychology with plans to specialize in child psychology.

Ladies, we wish all three of you the best of luck and much, much success as you begin this new and exciting phase of your lives!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Fall Fair will be held on Saturday, **September 26<sup>th</sup>**. More information will be coming in the future.

## GRACE UMC HAS A PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

Each Thursday, there is a Farmer's Market in Ravenna. Barb Coryell has arranged to have 2 tables there (one for baked goods, one for crafts) each week from 4-7pm.

July 16<sup>th</sup> was the first week and we made \$39. Barbara and daughter, Annie made baked goods (peach crumb cake and zucchini bread) while Barbara had the girls (Paige, Annie, Elizabeth and Lilyanna make sand candles one

Tuesday at Friends Around the Fireplace and those were sold as well. Some of Elizabeth Robertson's cards and handmade jewelry from Uganda will be offered there, too. Wanda and Alan Whitney have been helping lug the tables and Joy Mayo has a book table there as well.

## A BROKEN BODY

The video for "Broken Together," a contemporary Christian song by Casting Crowns, features a married couple struggling through a lifetime of faults and failings. But the song's message applies to church families, as well, according to lead singer Mark Hall.

Instead of trying to appear perfect and put-together on Sundays, he says, Christians need to be real with one another in an honest, "broken together" community.

"In community," Hall says, "we can tear the plastic off and just be ourselves. We can say, 'You know what, we don't have it all together at our house, and it's kind of a mess. But Jesus lives in this mess, and he's walking with us through it.'"



## A PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED

Dear Lord, we pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who live where trouble is brewing. Many suffer persecution in lands far and near. They face violence and harassment, hunger, kidnapping, oppressive laws and efforts to destroy their belief in you. Let them feel your mighty hand of love and protection as they go about their daily tasks. Let each person find strength, courage and wisdom in you. When troubles surround them, may they dwell on your sacrifice and guidance.

Give comfort to those grieving the loss or suffering of loved ones. Generously meet daily needs for shelter and food. Provide a safe worship place for those whose churches have been destroyed. Provide safe passage to those who must leave families, communities and country for new surroundings.

Thank you for allowing your children to be the remnant you hold dear. We pray these things in Christ, our persecuted but victorious Savior. Amen.

*—MaryAnn Sundby*






# Summer's gifts

Summer brings longer days, warmer nights and – for many people – time spent near water. Complete this puzzle to find out who's behind all those summertime joys.



*Directions: Read Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV) below. Draw a  around words describing God's actions. Draw an  around words that describe day. Underline words that describe evening. Draw  under words that describe the ocean.*

He who appoints the sun to shine by day,  
 who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,  
 who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar ...



*Directions: Circle the capital letters. Then write them from left to right on the lines below to reveal God's name in this Bible verse.*

i t T w H s p j E k e m a b L f g O h b c R d  
 e D q r s t c e a t o n a h f z z v u A w y L  
 a v n M q z l s k y z G u w H h m o T k j k Y



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Answer: The LORD Almighty

**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 **September** issue of *The Messenger* is **August 23<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**