



*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.*

**September 2015**

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

### **Hopeless and Hopeful**

There is much in the daily news that is depressing. I wouldn't take the space here to list the events occurring in distant places and here in Albany County, I am sure you are all too aware of them. What it is easy to overlook though, are the hopeful signs that exist all around us. The tragedy of senseless violence is motivating individuals to organize and get involved in their community. Former gang members are defusing potentially violent situations resulting in a decrease in violence. Police departments in many cities are taking demands for greater accountability seriously.

Local churches are reaching out beyond their wall, being God's love for their neighbors. Each week the hungry are fed through our local food shelf, individuals experience the caring presence of others at Friends Around the Fireplace, prayers for healing are offered, the troubled are comforted by those willing to listen and counsel, missionaries and chaplains are supported in their work, victims of violence are assisted, and invitations are extended to individuals to come and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

There is evil at work in this world of ours, but there are also signs of individuals who long for a change and are eager to hear the Good News that was, is, and will be proclaimed to the very end of time of God's love and its ability to transform this world of

ours. The power of God to change lives is more than wishful thinking; it is a truth that the saints of the Church and those touched by them bear witness to.

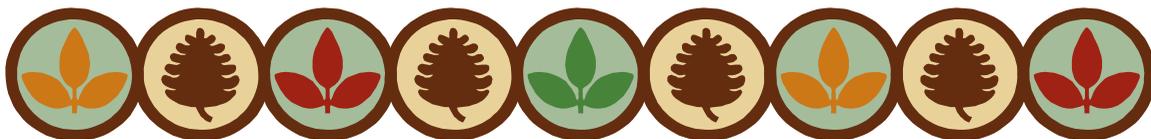
We have incredible Good News to share with a hurting world. During the coming months I will be receiving some training in the area of Evangelism and ways to increase the vitality of the ministry of a local church. I anticipate that this will not only increase my effectiveness but also allow me to support your ministry by offering training opportunities. The best is yet to come for Grace United Methodist. Today is indeed a time to be Hopeful.

Yours in Christ's Service,



*David E. Smith*

David E. Smith, Pastor



## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

### 9/6 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Communion

Scripture	James 2:1–10, 14–17; Mark 7:24–37
Sermon	Brothers and Sisters
Psalter	858 Psalm 146
Hymns	2139 Oh, I Know the Lord’s Laid His Hands on Me 2254 In Remembrance of Me 671 Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

### 9/13 – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture	James 3:1–12; Mark 8:27–38
Sermon	Are You Ready?
Affirmation	885 A Modern Affirmation
Hymns	159 Lift High the Cross 553 And Are We Yet Alive 528 Nearer, My God, to Thee

### Special Music by “Sons of Redemption”

### 9/20 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Homecoming Sunday

Installation of Pastor	
Scripture	James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a; Mark 9:30–37
Sermon	Who’s First?
Psalter	738 Psalm 1
Hymns	2273 Jesus, We Are Here 2158 Just a Closer Walk with Thee 530 Are Ye Able

### 9/27 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture	James 5:13–20; Mark 9:38–50
Sermon	Looking for Answers
Affirmation	886 Social Affirmation
Hymns	577 God of Grace and God of Glory 494 Kum Ba Yah 583 You Are the Seed

## SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE RESULTS

At the special Church Conference on August 9<sup>th</sup> it was approved with only two negative votes that pastor's position and salary be increased to three-quarter time with a minimum of 30 hours per week and spending 4 days in Ravenna. The pastor began assuming the responsibilities of being three-quarter time on August 10<sup>th</sup> with the first check at the new salary level to be received on the first Sunday in September.

The pastor's additional day in Ravenna will be Monday from 4–9pm. He will be devoting his additional time to the areas of Evangelism, Stewardship, and Community Involvement.

## CONFIRMATION: AFFIRMING A COMMITMENT TO JESUS

The most fundamental understanding of confirmation is a time to affirm one's commitment to Jesus Christ. This Fall the pastor will be holding classes for individuals eleven years or older interested in exploring what it means to make a commitment to follow Jesus and become a professing member of Grace United Methodist Church. At the end of the sessions each participant

will be decide if they are ready to take the vows to become a professing member.

There will be an orientation session on Monday evening, **September 21<sup>st</sup>** at 7:00pm at the church. We will be making a decision Monday evening on the best time for our class sessions. If you are interested in participating in the classes but are unable to attend the orientation session on September 21<sup>st</sup>, please contact the pastor.



## YOU ARE INVITED

September features two great opportunities to invite your friends and neighbors to experience God's love at Grace United Methodist. We have a new church brochure that you can use when inviting them to come with you to Grace, copies are available in the church office.

**Homecoming Sunday** – On Sunday, **September 20<sup>th</sup>** in addition to our normal morning worship service we will be having a potluck fellowship time as we celebrate Homecoming Sunday. Homecoming Sunday also marks the beginning of Adult Bible Study and Sunday School, excellent opportunities for individuals of all ages

to hear the Good News contained in Scripture.

**Fall Fair** – On Saturday, **September 26<sup>th</sup>** we will be having our Fall Fair with its usual food, fun, interesting items to purchase, games for the children, and more. This year we will also have a PowerPoint presentation on Grace playing on a loop in Fellowship Hall and copies of our church brochure will be available.

Pastor David will be available at both events to welcome and answer questions for all interested individuals. He is also willing to visit any individuals not currently part of another church who would be receptive to a visit from him.

## **BARGAIN SHED NEWS**

Our end-of-season sale on spring/summer items was very popular with our regular customers and first-timers. The volunteers at the Bargain Shed have been busy removing the rest of the spring/summer stock and adding fall/winter items. It's always fun to see new inventory.

We will be especially busy (as will everyone else) during the week before the Fall Fair. The Fair is always enjoyable, as we get to see old and new

friends. At that time we bring out Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, since we are not open when the weather gets too cold.

Come see us any Tuesday morning, Thursday evening or Saturday morning. We are bursting with bargains!

Year-to-date sales for the Bargain Shed through August 22<sup>nd</sup> are **\$3,341.75!** Keep up the good work!!!

## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

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

## BOOK NOOK UPDATE

This summer's HUGE Book Sale was held on July 29<sup>th</sup> –August 1<sup>st</sup> along with a mini-rummage sale, and while the sales goal was \$1,200, it brought in **\$2,984** giving the Book Nook a YTD total sales figure of **\$11,558**; exceeding the entire year's goal of \$10,000! Great job **everyone!**



Most kids love to imitate Superheros or at least watch their cartoons. Why? What's the attraction? According to Axel Alonzo, Editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics, "they're not rooting for the powers or the costume; they're rooting for the person inside the tights." With Spiderman they're rooting for the kid from Queens who, when he's not saving the world has to scrape to make rent; with Captain America, they're rooting for the 98-lb weakling who, through the miracle of science was granted muscles that finally match the size of his heart." Superheros are

“models for life; people who rise above their personal baggage and insecurities to face great challenges and do great things.” We often don't see the relationship, but Bible characters fit right in. David was a 98-lb weakling. Joshua not only had to defeat a huge scary army with his men, but to do so, he had to drop a wall with about as many bricks in it as the Empire State Building. Daniel had to find some creative way to fight off the eating instincts of lions, with whom he shared a den overnight. All these biblical men were granted incredible powers from on high so that good could triumph over evil. This is superhero storytelling in the most classic sense. Christianity has every right and reason to call its Bible heros the first superheros! (Taken from *Children's Ministry* curriculum.)

Sunday School classes will be starting on **September 20<sup>th</sup>** and this year the children will be learning about the Superheros of the Bible – how good defeats evil and how all it takes is to have a willing heart, ready to obey God.

Due to the overwhelming success of our Mason jar mixes last year, the Sunday School children will once again be concocting some tasty ready-to-make soup and cookie mixes for the Fall Fair. Please have your child join us on Homecoming Sunday when we will

be making our Mason jar mixes. If you have a large mason jar from last year that you're no longer using, please donate it back to us so we can refill it!



## **GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Vacation Bible School in 2015 was inspiring, active, fun, and a chance to experience God's amazing love. We had 24 children attending and 27 adult volunteers.

During the week we learned that God calls us to reach out to those in need and walks with us; Jesus shows us the way to live our lives and calls us to follow him; and we are called to share the good news of Jesus with others.

The volunteers were enthusiastic and full of energy, and the children had fun *and* learned. Following are some photos of the VBS group:





## GRACE COFFEE HOUSE



Plans are already in place for Vacation Bible School 2016 to be sponsored by the Ravena, Coeymans, and Selkirk Association of Churches during the week of July 18–22 at Grace United Methodist Church with Rev. David E. Smith as Director.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, we hosted our second talent show at “Grace Coffee House.” Pastor David announced that our prayer blanket ministry would benefit from the free-will offering and encouraged the audience to consider utilizing this prayer ministry (whether a member of Grace or not) for anyone in need of God’s strength and encouragement.

A good time was had by all! Sharon Phillips shared a song from her new CD and sold the CD’s she needed to reach a goal of a \$1,000 donation to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. The Book Nook performed a cute little song for us and sold a box full of books! Joy announced that the audience was welcome to take one book free of charge.

A special note of thanks to Joy Mayo and the Book Nook crew for all you do! You are all truly amazing!

Looking ahead to our next talent show in November, Sharon announced that it will be a “Christmas” theme. She asked folks to think about sharing their favorite holiday-related songs, stories, skits or poems. So mark your calendar for November 20<sup>th</sup> and plan to join us for an early holiday celebration. We’ll have plenty of your favorite hot



beverages and fresh baked treats waiting for you to enjoy!

If you'd like to participate in November's talent show, please contact Sharon or Brian Phillips.

We also collected \$101.00 toward the prayer blanket ministry!

## FALL FAIR

Don't forget to see how you can contribute to our annual Fall Fair that will be held on Saturday, **September 26<sup>th</sup>**. You'll hear more about this throughout September!

## GRANDPARENTS ARE GREAT

"What a bargain grandchildren are," said comedy writer Gene Perret. "I give them my loose change, and they give me a million dollars' worth of pleasure."

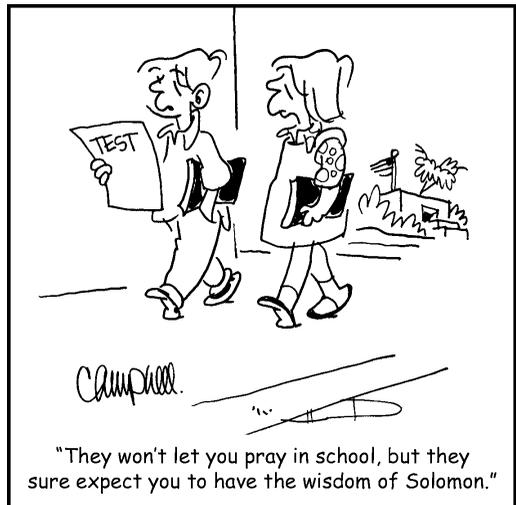
When it comes to family heritage, grandparents are worth their weight in gold. They serve as storehouses of history and wisdom, helping children see how they fit into a family's legacy. Christian grandparents also provide a faith heritage that passes from generation to generation.

The apostle Paul acknowledged this important role of family elders when he wrote to young Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you" (2 Timothy 1:5, *NRSV*).

## FOR OUR YOUTH

On Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the youth will meet to plan the annual Halloween Party & Bewitching Buffet. Any youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or above are welcome to attend. Bring a friend (or two)!

Adults who would like to help out with the food for the party are welcome to attend the meeting and help plan the menu. Please contact Barbara Coryell with any questions.





# STAY NOURISHED

Eating nutritious foods such as apples helps keep our bodies healthy. But Proverbs tells us about other important sources of “nourishment.”

**Directions:** Use the words in the apples to complete Proverbs 3:7-9, NIV.



Do not be  in your own  ;

 the  and shun .

This will bring  to your 

and nourishment to  bones.

 the LORD  your wealth,

with the firstfruits of  your .

PROVERBS 3:7-9, NIV

Answer: Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.

**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 **October** issue of *The Messenger* is **September 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

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

*or*

fax to: **731-8994**