



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.

November 2015

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

WE WANT YOU – WE NEED YOU

Grace United Methodist wants and needs each of you. There are three basic reasons that I say that.

First, I believe that when we say “Yes” to allowing Jesus into our life that he gives us purpose, enables us to overcome the problems of daily life, and frees us from crippling guilt for past wrongs.

Second, God provides each of us with capabilities that are needed for the mission of the church. We are more effective when you are present.

Third, together we can make a positive impact upon our community, nation, and world.

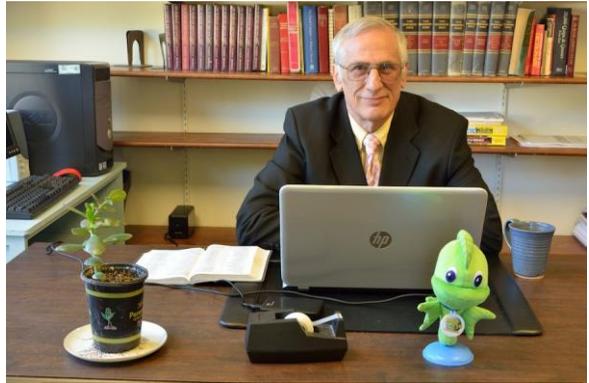
I celebrate all that Grace is able to do thanks to the talents and participation of those who are an active part of its ministries. I look forward in coming months to working with our Lay Leader in developing programs to making increased use of the talents of Grace's laity. Together we can increase the vitality of Grace and enable it to be a transformative channel of God's love.

On November 22nd at our Church Conference we will be presenting plans for how we will begin the process of becoming a more vital congregation. We can increase our effectiveness at attracting new disciples for Jesus and in nurturing current followers of the way of Jesus.

We will be implementing principles that have proven effective at increasing the vitality of congregations large and small, increasing their Sunday attendance , opportunities to nurture members, and outreach ministries. One congregation with 30 80-year-olds now averages 400 on a Sunday morning. I am convinced great things await Grace.

If you have questions or concerns, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you at a time and place that is convenient for you.

Yours in Christ's Service,



David E. Smith

David E. Smith, Pastor



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

10/01 – All Saints Day

Scripture Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelations 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44
Theme Death is not the end.
Sermon Beyond Tears
Hymns 711 For All the Saints
383 This is a Day of New Beginnings
672 God Be with You

10/08 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Mark 12:38-44
Affirmation #881 “Apostles Creed”
Theme God transforms ordinary to extraordinary to accomplish great things.
Sermon From Humble Beginnings
Hymns 87 What Gift Can We Bring
2153 I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

10/15 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8
Affirmation #883 “We Are Not Alone”
Theme Even in the midst of difficult times we have cause for hope.
Sermon Cause for Hope
Hymns 2226 Bind Us Together
512 Stand by Me
377 It is Well with My Soul

10/22 – Reign of Christ

Scripture 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37
Psalter
Reading #849 - Psalm 132:1-18
Theme Jesus provides the pattern of leadership based on love not force.
Sermon A Different King
Hymns 694 Come You Thankful People
2074 Shout to the Lord
171 There’s Something About That Name

Covered Dish and Annual Church Conference after Church

10/29 – First Sunday of Advent

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36
Affirmation #886 Social Affirmation
Theme God's ways will win out in the end.
Sermon End Times
Hymns 211 O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
 196 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
 474 Precious Lord

FALL FAIR

At the writing of the October newsletter, the final figure for our Fall Fair was not available. The last report I received put us over **\$2,668!** Thank you to all the hard workers who manned the booths, to those who contributed items and to all those who purchased or won bids on items/services from the Fair!

CONDENSED MINUTES OF OCTOBER'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

We opened our meeting with church member Mark Young discussing new copier options. He provided great insight as to the various options available. A new line item will be added reflecting \$400 to be put aside for future copier purchases.

Audry June is involved with a fitness group who has asked permission to use the building twice a week. Trustees will address this request. We have other community groups who periodically meet at our church as well.

The Pastor is interested in compiling a new directory. A short survey has been distributed to find out if there is interest in pursuing this.

Tax receipts are available for people who make donations to the church. Just ask and you will be provided with one.

Amazon Smile is new way for our church to benefit from purchases made through Amazon. Once we are set up as a qualified organization – the person purchasing can designate us as the recipient of one half percent of the purchase price of their item(s). This is a great tool to use – friends and family can designate Grace Church also! We will pass on this information soon.

PPRC reports that John Vasto will help us with our Christmas Concert although he cannot stay on because of scheduling conflicts. We thank him for whatever time he can spend with us!

Our meeting ended promptly at 9:00pm. Our next meeting is on **November 10th** – please join us and be informed.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to everyone celebrating a birthday in November!

3 Devonna Quinn
3 William Haslett
4 JoAnne Burrill
8 Andrew Ginder

9 Liz Spence
11 Cindy Bliss
11 Jessica Ingraham
16 Alice Ross
16 Pastor Judi Johnson-Siebold
18 Jay Ingraham
20 Chris Ingraham



FALL BOOK SALE!

Our 12th annual HUGE FALL Book Sale is coming **November 5th, 6th and 7th** (Thursday, Friday and Saturday).

Needless to say, we need your **HELP**. **HELP** in setting up, **HELP** during the sale and **HELP** taking down.

A light breakfast and lunch will be available on two of the sale days: Friday from 9am-3pm and Saturday from 9am-2pm.

Set up will be after church on Sunday, **November 1st** and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (**November 2nd – 4th**) from 9am-3pm and 6-8pm or until finished.

Take down will be on Saturday and Sunday (**November 7th & 8th**). **ALL** help is welcome!

Our goal is \$1,000. Won't you please help with the sale? Or, if this is not possible, please come by and purchase some books.

NOTE: the Book Nook will only be open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings after November 21st, weather and holidays permitting until Spring when we will resume our normal hours.

The Book Nook YTD total sales figure is **\$12,629**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In November, the Sunday School will have a bucket outside the office to collect any leftover candy you may not have given out on Halloween. The kids will be donating a portion of their treats to an organization called Operation Gratitude. They support our military by sending care packages and letters to New Recruits, Veterans, Wounded Warriors as well as families of those who are actively serving.

Each year Operation Gratitude sends Halloween candy to the troops serving overseas. Check out their website here: www.operationgratitude.com.

They do request that you don't donate Pixy Stix as they make a mess for the

troops. They also request that you don't purchase candy at the half-off sales after Halloween, just send extra/leftover candy and consider making a financial donation instead.

Leftover candy will need to be collected by **November 8th** so that it can be shipped by the November 15th deadline.

Operation Gratitude also requests letters for the troops to be included with the candy. Please consider writing a note or drawing a picture to send as well. The website notes; "Writing a letter is a meaningful way for Americans to show support for our Military. It only takes five minutes of your day, but will bring lasting joy to the recipients." They suggest thanking them for their selfless service, telling them you're praying for them and sharing a little bit about your life or interests.

Operation Gratitude would also love to include toothbrushes and toothpaste in each care package with the candy, so if you're able to donate either of these items that would be appreciated!

FRESH HAM DINNER CANCELLED

The dinner that was planned for November 14th has been cancelled due

to many other events happening. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and efforts to help out with this Fall's dinner.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECT

The youth are using the Grace Geese as an outreach project to raise money for the Homeless Action Committee of Albany. If you don't want these geese landing on your lawn, in seasonal costume, you can purchase geese insurance for \$15 for the year.



If the geese land on your lawn, they will stay for a week. If you would like them picked up early, there will be a \$5 charge, but this doesn't mean you are safe from having them land again unless you purchase the insurance.

We have an envelope in church for any donations, especially from those who had geese land on their lawn, and for those wishing to purchase Geese insurance. There is a form with the

envelope to fill out to purchase the geese insurance. For more info contact Barbara Coryell.

GRACE COFFEE HOUSE

If you had the opportunity to attend our last talent show in August, you know how fun and entertaining it can be. And, if you have not been able attend, then you especially need to mark your calendar for 7pm on Friday, **November 20th**.

There will be a “Christmas” theme for the evening. Sharon asked people to consider sharing a favorite holiday song, poem or story. You could also do a skit or play an instrument. Whatever you would like to do...keeping with our theme, of course.

We'll also need lots of folks in the audience so, our performers will feel appreciated. There'll be lots of holiday treats and warm beverages. Best of all, it's free.

Of course, if you would like to show your appreciation, there will be a free-will offering to benefit our prayer blanket ministry.

Hope to see you there!



BARGAIN SHED NEWS

The Bargain Shed is entering the final weeks for this year. Our closing date is **November 21st**. During our final week we will be having a bag sale. For \$4 you will be able to fill a bag with any of the items in the shop. The dates for the sale are **November 17th, November 19th and November 21st**.

We are just bursting with fall/winter items waiting to go home with someone. Stop in and check us out; we may have just what you've been looking for. **NOTE:** the Shed will be open for business during the Huge Fall Book Sale on **Friday, November 6th** from 9am to Noon.

Year-to-date sales through October 17th for the Bargain Shed are *over* **\$4,950!**

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

On Sunday, **November 22nd** we will be holding our annual Church Conference. It will be a time of celebrating and planning for the coming year. I am excited about the possibilities for Grace United Methodist during 2016. Please join us as we discuss plans for attracting new disciples for Jesus, and nurturing those who are seeking to follow the ways of Jesus.

We will meet after the morning worship service at 11:30am for a covered dish lunch followed by our Church Conference at 12:30pm with dismissal at 2:30pm. Rev Alan Rhodes will be the presiding elder for the Church Conference.

We will be distributing reports and any proposal(s) requiring action prior to the Church Conference to avoid spending time reading reports and to help facilitate discussion.

Pastor David

NEW WORSHIP SERVICES

Beginning **November 29th** we will be offering two additional worship services. There will be an early Sunday morning service at 8am followed by refreshments and discussion at 8:30am. On Thursday evening there will be a Contemporary Worship Service from 7-7:30pm.

We hope that these two additional services will reach those for whom the 10:30am Sunday service doesn't fit their needs. Please help us publicize these two new services. **Do you know someone who doesn't attend church now who might be interested? Consider inviting them to join you for one of these services.**

ADVENT STUDY

“SENT: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas”

by Jorge Acevedo

“Delivering God’s gift of hope to a world in need.” Join Pastor David for an Advent study that promises to enable us to hear and share that word of hope. It shares the story of that first Christmas and that of individuals who have heard and shared the word of hope.

We will meet Monday evenings from 7-8:30pm for five sessions beginning Monday, **November 30th**.

THANKSGIVING BEATITUDES

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

GUIDE MY WORDS

Be thankful for each new challenge,
because it will build your strength and
character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They
will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and
weary, because it means you've made a
difference.

- Author Unknown

AN OVERDUE THANK YOU

*Thank You for the sun that
rose this morning,
Thank You for the food we have to eat,
Thank You for a bed that
we can sleep in.
Thank You for the shoes upon our feet.*

*Help us, Lord, to never take for granted
Little things that
You've so freely given;
Things that, day-to-day,
are right there for us;
Blessings falling on us,
right from Heaven.*

*Help us, then, to look around at others;
And if there's a need that we can meet,
Help us to remember our blessings;
And, in sharing,
make Your gifts complete.*

- Lisa DeVinney, I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes
(Cook Communication)

Father, I face another day in which I
will be called upon to use my words
wisely and well. May they encourage
those who listen. May they speak truth
but also be said in love. May I pause
before I pounce. May I be bold enough
to speak when I would rather run away.
Lord, I give my mouth to you today.
May what comes forth be sweet and
not bitter. May the journey each word
takes from my mind to my heart to my
lips be guided by your hand. May what
comes out be life-giving rather than
causing death. May my words make
you proud and bring you glory. In
Jesus' name, Amen.

- Karen Ehman, Keep It Shut
(Zondervan)





With all my heart



This Thanksgiving — and every day — let's thank our heavenly Father for all he has done.

Directions: Write the capital letters in order on the lines below to complete Psalm 9:1, NIV.

I	a	W	I	d	L	d	L	G	e
I	f	V	g	h	E	c	T	H	y
A	a	g	N	K	c	m	S	n	T
h	O	q	Y	O	b	U	c	L	O
p	R	e	D	W	a	I	T	H	A
h	L	L	t	M	b	Y	d	H	E
A	R	b	T	d	I	W	I	f	L
g	L	T	E	b	L	c	L	O	j
F	z	A	L	y	L	Y	O	g	U
R	W	d	O	N	t	D	E	f	R
F	U	s	L	D	f	E	E	D	S

“ _____
 _____,
 _____;
 _____”

PSALM 9:1, NIV

Answer: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." Psalm 9:1, NIV

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 **December** issue of *The Messenger* is **November 22nd**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**