



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

www.graceumcravena.org
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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 2016

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT THIS

It is easy to lose hope in the face of stories of terrorism, shooting of civilians by police, the targeting and shooting of law enforcement officers, and each side in the race for president proclaiming how disastrous the election of their opponent would be. Even as I weep over the senseless tragedy, I believe that as people of faith who are followers of Jesus Christ, we have much to say that is relevant to what is happening in our world.

First and foremost is the conviction that the God revealed in Jesus Christ is a God of love who will not be defeated. Throughout history, even in its darkest hours, there has always been the faithful remnant that remained faithful to God.

Second, love is more powerful than hate; peace stronger than war. While we can't deny that those who are evil can and do cause immense suffering, they can and will be defeated. Isn't this the message of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus? Jesus refused to adopt the role of a mighty warrior that could lead an armed rebellion against Rome. Instead he chose to suffer and die on a cross that we might have life. Jesus' resurrection offered proof that not even death could defeat the power of God's love.

Third, people of faith can make a difference. When we gather together and seek God in earnest, heartfelt prayer, a power is unleashed that can accomplish the impossible. The history of Christianity is filled with stories of healings, the troubled finding comfort, people freed from addiction, individuals reconciled with one another, people providing for those in need, and hearts filled with bitterness and hatred transformed.

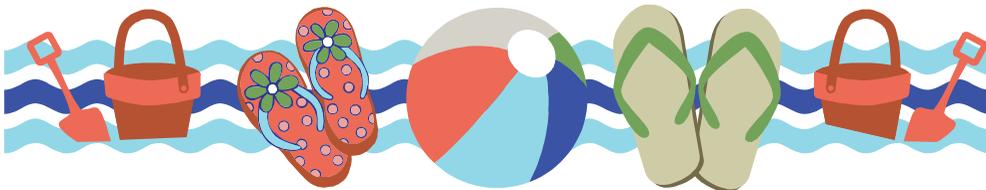
Jesus Christ, today as in times past, can transform lives and this world of ours. He has promised that God will answer our prayers and enable us to do even greater things than he accomplished when he was here on earth among us. **Now is a time to be in prayer that we may hear God's voice and become the hands and feet of Christ redeeming this troubled world of ours.**

Yours in Christ's Service,



David E. Smith

David E. Smith, Pastor



AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

8/07 – Pentecost 12

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Responsive

Reading: #783 – Psalm 50

Theme: Do not lose heart God is with us.

Meditation: A Source of Comfort

Hymns: 2283 For All the Saints

617 I Come with Joy

507 Through It All

8/14 – Pentecost 13

Scripture: Isaiah 5:1-7; Luke 12:49-56

Affirmation: #884 – Korean Creed

Theme: Following Jesus brings joy and sorrow.

Meditation: Sorrow and Joy

Hymns: 700 Abide with Me

474 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

706 Soon and Very Soon

8/21 – Pastor on Vacation

Jeff Schoenig – Guest Preacher

Lectionary

Texts: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6 (794), Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

8/28 – Pastor on Vacation

Ken Bliss – Guest Preacher

Lectionary

Texts: Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (803), Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16,
Luke 14:1, 7-14



PASTOR ON VACATION

The pastor will be on vacation from **August 15th – 28th**. Jeff Schoenig will be the guest preacher on August 21st and Ken Bliss on August 28th. If you need pastoral care, please call the church office at 756-6688 for information on who is providing coverage.

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

The good news is that our half-price sale was very successful. However, we still have a "filled to the brim" bargain shed. So...on Saturday, **August 6th**, there will be a 3-hour, \$3-a-bag sale on all items in the shop. Beginning at 9am, this special sale will be short but loaded with great merchandise. Hope to see you all there...and please invite your friends and family to join you.

After this 3-hour event, we will be starting our change-over to fall items.

Hard to believe that time is here already!

Receipts this year so far, are about **\$2,900!**

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Grace UMC will be having another Coffee House in September. Are you a shower singer, a back yard magician, a family room juggler, a basement guitar player or some other type of entertainer just waiting for the right opportunity to shine? Hone up on those hidden talents and then share them with us during this fun-filled community event. Stay tuned...date to be announced.



The Fall Book Sale is fast approaching and we need your help. We will be setting up on Sunday, July 31st after Church and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am-3pm and 6-8pm or until finished.

We need helpers to carry books up, sort them and put them out. We also need some cashiers. Sign-up sheets are now in Fellowship Hall. Even if you don't sign up, feel free to come and help out.

The Book Sale will be held Thursday and Friday, **August 4th and 5th** from 9am–3pm and 6–8pm and on Saturday, **August 6th** from 9am–3pm. Our goal is \$1,500. *Please* help us achieve it.

The Book Nook YTD total sales figure as of July 24th is **\$8,677!**



Our third annual Blessing of the Backpacks will take place on Thursday, **September 1st** and will once again include a free dinner with ice cream sundaes donated from Stewart's. Mark your calendar and tell your friends! If you are interested in donating to this event or helping out, please contact Kate Robertson.

We will also be collecting school supplies to donate to Choices and the food pantry right up until the date of the event, so please pick up some extra supplies as you're out shopping. If you know of a child who needs assistance obtaining a backpack or school supplies, please contact Kate or Pastor David.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries in 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 Evangelyn Seymour
- 22 Mark Contreras
- 24 Gabriella Selbe
- 25 Devin Whitney
- 25 Ryan Roe

A SMALL LAUGH

“God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city,” said the Sunday school teacher, “but Lot’s wife looked back and was turned to salt.”

A curious boy then asked, “What happened to the flea?”



Pray, and let God worry.

—*Martin Luther*

ALL ABOARD

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don’t throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer.

—*Corrie ten Boom*

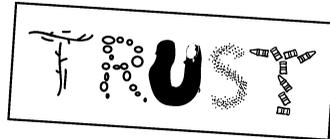


Editor’s Note: Just a reminder for summer... don’t forget to let me know if there is something you’d like published in the September newsletter. See you in September!

Barb

TRUST POSTER

No matter what you face, God is with you. Make this poster as a reminder to always trust God.

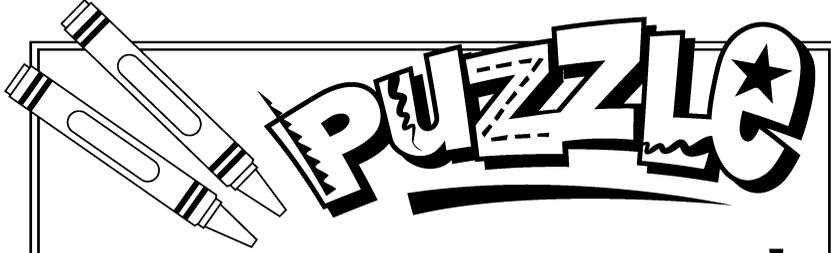


What you need:

- Cardstock
- Glue
- Twigs (a 3" piece and a 2" piece)
- Pebbles
- Black paint
- Paintbrush
- Sand or glitter
- Broken crayons (2 or 3)

What you do:

1. On the left side of the cardstock, trace a 3"-high letter T with glue. Place twigs on the glue lines.
2. Trace an R of the same size. Place pebbles on that glue.
3. Use black paint to make a U.
4. Trace an S in glue. Pour sand (or glitter) on top.
5. Make another T with glue. Place the crayons on top.
6. After the poster dries, shake off the excess sand (or glitter) into a trash can.



NEVER FEAR!

The Psalms are full of inspiring prayers to God,
who always looks after you.

*Directions: Use the clues to fill in each missing letter. Then use those letters
to complete Psalm 13:5, NIV.*

What plants grow in D I R
1

The opposite of play W O K
2

One-of-a-kind N I Q U E
3

A hug and a K I S
4

Sour T A R
5

To speak very loudly Y E L
6

Immediately N W
7

Bees live in a H I E
8

A dandelion is this W E D
9

I in your unfailing ;
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

Answers: dirt, work, unique, kiss, tart, yell, now, hive, weed,
I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm
13:5, NIV

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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 **September** issue of *The Messenger* is **August 21st**. Please e-mail or fax articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**