



*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 2016**

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

### **YOU ARE INVITED**

As Summer draws to a close and you resume your normal routine with its demands, your Church wants to be there to offer its support. I believe that in the teachings of Jesus we can find comfort when troubled, guidance when making difficult choices, and hope in the face of tragedy. As your pastor I am always willing to listen to your questions. Your church also offers you opportunities each week to: study God's word, be inspired by religious music, seek God's presence in prayer, hear reflections on Scripture by the pastor, share fellowship with others seeking to follow Jesus, and support the ministries of Jesus Christ.

In addition to our traditional 10:30am Sunday service we have two other worship services: an early Sunday service at 8am, and a more contemporary service on Thursday evening at 7pm. The early Sunday morning and Thursday evening service are 30 minutes in length with opportunity for questions and discussion.

There are two opportunities to engage in Bible study with the Adult class led by Rodger Coryell Sunday morning at 9am and a Wednesday evening study at 7pm led by the pastor.

Opportunities for fellowship are provided after each of the worship services, as part of the Bible studies, and Tuesday morning during Friends Around the Fireplace from 9am – Noon.

Your church also offers you the opportunity to be part of something that has the potential to change the hearts of individuals and this world of ours for the better. Your contributions and participation in the programs of Grace feed the hungry, support programs for children and youth, make pastoral support available to the troubled, enable the proclamation of God’s word, train and support chaplains, educate future pastors, send missionaries, and advocate for peace.

Your comments and questions are always welcome. Feel free to contact me by phone or text at 518-572-4051 or email at [revdavid76@gmail.com](mailto:revdavid76@gmail.com).

Yours in Christ’s Service,



*David E. Smith*

David E. Smith, Pastor



# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

## 9/04 – Pentecost 16 – Communion

Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-11; Luke 14:25-33  
Affirmation: #881 – The Apostles' Creed  
Theme: Called to claim our birthright as God's children.  
Meditation: Claiming Our Heritage  
Hymns: 548 In Christ There is No East or West  
399 Take My Life, and Let It Be  
2129 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

## 9/11 – Pentecost 17

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10  
Responsive  
Reading: #746 – Psalm 141  
Theme: In Christ there are no hopeless cases.  
Meditation: Simply Amazing  
Hymns: 378 Amazing Grace  
2056 God is So Good  
394 Something Beautiful

## 9/18 – Pentecost 18 – Homecoming Sunday

Scripture: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Luke 16:1-13  
Affirmation: #880 – The Nicene Creed  
Theme: Following Jesus calls us to be all in.  
Meditation: Choices  
Hymns: 373 Nothing Between  
354 I Surrender All  
2171 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

## 9/25 – Pentecost 19

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31  
Responsive  
Reading: # 810 – Psalm 91  
Theme: Material possessions can be a blessing or curse.  
Meditation: Blessing or Curse  
Hymns: 2145 Peace Like a River  
398 Jesus Calls Us  
2153 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

## **NOW – HANDICAP ACCESS TO ALL FLOORS**

Over the summer, Grace UMC had chair lifts installed for up and down our hall stairs – so now we have handicap access to the lower and upper floors. Please come join us here at Grace!

## **THE “NEW” FALL FAIR**

On Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, the Fall Fair will have a new look. Several changes are being made to give the event new things to look forward to. As usual, the Fair will be from 9am – 3pm. Rodger Coryell (518-605-1577) and Paul Maurer (603-380-1840) are co-chairs. Please contact them with any questions.

We will have a new, larger area called “Country Kitchen.” It will include baked goods, candy, home-canned goods (jellies, pickles, etc.) and any garden produce. All your donations are needed and will be much appreciated.

One of our popular things is the “Silent Auction.” Donations of themed gift baskets, gift cards or certificates, special dinners, baby sitting, yard work or any other service you can provide will all enhance the auction.

Books have been in great demand so we will be having a \$2.50/bag sale of all the books we have. You can get all your Fall/Winter reading materials.

Starting at 11am until sold out, there will be a chicken barbeque...take out or eat in. The cost is \$10 and includes chicken, baked potato and baked beans. Individual desserts will be available for purchase at the “Country Kitchen.” The cooking is being donated by Scott VanWormer.

The Bargain Shed will be open during the Fair hours and will have the usual variety inside the Shed. We will also continue the \$3/bag sale outside. In addition, there will be a few “spot” sales. Since we have items to put outside the Shed, we are looking for 2 or 3 pop-up canopies. If you have one you would be willing to let us use, please contact Edna Rominger.

The kids will be happy to see the Bouncy Bounce return and they can also have their faces painted. In the afternoon there will be a pet parade and pet costume contest. Prizes will be awarded in 3 categories. Pictures, by our very own Pastor David, can also be taken with your pet.

During the day there will be representatives from the Fire Department and emergency personnel.

The next Fall Fair meeting is Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Please plan to attend and see where you can help.

Please tell your friends about  
THE "NEW" FALL FAIR!

## BARGAIN SHED NEWS

With the past few weeks being very, very, hot, the changeover from Spring/Summer to Fall/Winter is moving at a little slower pace. But there are changes happening! Soon you will see the entire inventory reflect the season we will be entering.

The greatest changes will happen just before the Fall Fair on September 24<sup>th</sup>. During the week of September 19<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Shed volunteers will be extremely busy. If you would like to give us a hand, you would be most welcome.

Sales to date for 2016 total **\$3,576!**

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

On September 18<sup>th</sup> we'll be celebrating Homecoming Sunday. That means that the Adult Sunday School class led by Rodger Coryell will begin meeting again each week at 9am. The class will

be doing a study on women in the New Testament. All are welcome.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

September 1<sup>st</sup> is our second annual backpack blessing. We will have a picnic dinner followed by ice cream sundaes donated by Stewart's. Don't forget your backpack or briefcase as Pastor David will bless each one! The congregation has been very generous and has already collected a great deal of school supplies and backpacks that we will give to those who need them that night. The remaining items will be donated to St. Patrick's food pantry and Choices.

On Homecoming Sunday (September 18<sup>th</sup>) we will have a potluck coffee hour to celebrate the official start of school year. Please bring a dish to share.

The children will begin the school year by making items to sell at the Fall Fair. We are in need of quart size mason jars again for one of the projects. We will be making some new items as well, so come visit our tables at the fair to see what they have done.

Our curriculum this fall will center on the story of Joseph's Journey. In addition, our older elementary children will be learning the books of the Bible this year. They will also be memorizing some scripture verses from each book and find scriptures to turn to when feeling happy, sad, thankful, tempted or mad.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to all those celebrating an anniversary or a birthday in 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  
19 Chelsea Wooster (Maurer)  
21 Rebecca Shook  
27 Heather Meisner  
27 Jean Gordon  
29 Alicia Moss  
30 John Mantynen



At the mention of miracles, we often picture the biblical kind: a dead person brought back to life, a small amount of food feeding a crowd, sight restored to a blind man. Yet even today we look for unexpected healings or an earthquake victim found alive after days amid rubble.

But consider someone born with poor eyesight who, thanks to technology, can work as a professional proofreader or create intricate digital paintings.

Consider someone with a prosthetic leg who can run and even win races. Consider someone who, thanks to a donated heart, kidney or blood, continues to live. Consider friends in the United States and Europe who can connect in “real time,” offering support during a crisis.

Technology — whose source is the human brain created by God — makes possible a new, modern-day type of miracle. When used for good, it can overcome barriers, allowing us to celebrate life and serve one another. Miracles, indeed!

## PRAYER WARRIERS

After tragedies, natural disasters and terrorism, people now commonly turn to social media to request prayers. Although it can feel “jarring” to see “so many references to the divine in spaces normally reserved for vacation

photos,” writes journalist Eleanor Barkhorn, it’s a modern-day version of the New Testament’s reminders to pray constantly and in all circumstances.

Over the years, churches have encouraged members to pray through letters, phone chains, prayer breakfasts and prayer groups. “With that context in mind,” Barkhorn writes, “Facebook shouldn’t cheapen prayer any more than the Postal Service or the telephone does.”

Russell Moore of the Southern Baptist Convention says, “Asking for prayer via Twitter or Facebook is no different than calling someone and saying, ‘We should really pray for this.’ ... Social media can be a tremendous force for good in alerting people to things they can be praying about right away.”



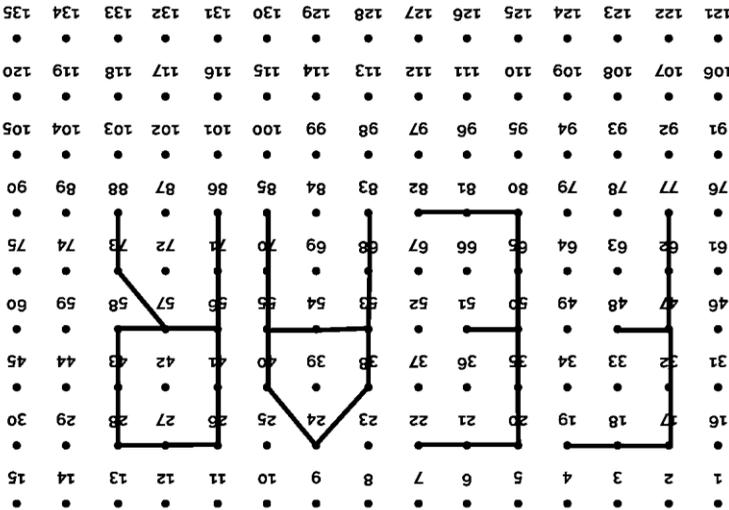


# THE LORD WILL PROTECT

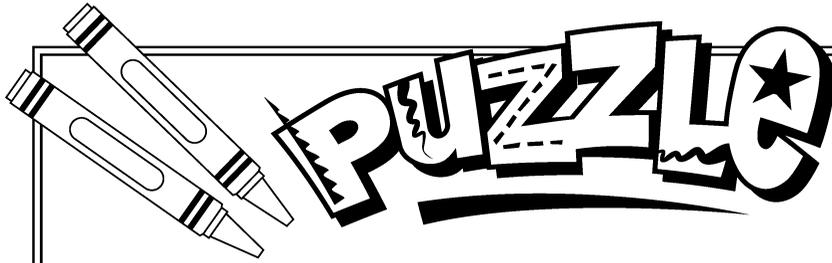
God always watches over us, during good times and bad.

Directions: Connect the dots, according to the instructions below. Then use the resulting word to complete the Bible verse.

Start at 19. Draw from 19-18, 18-17, 47-62, 62-77, 22-21, 21-20, 50-51, 82-81, 81-80, 80-65, 65-50, 50-35, 35-20, 24-38, 38-53, 24-40, 40-55, 17-32, 47-48, 32-47, 26-41, 41-56, 56-71, 71-86, 86-56-57, 57-58, 55-54, 54-53, 53-68, 68-83, 55-70, 70-85, 58-43, 57-73, 73-88, 43-28, 28-27, 27-26.



>> "So do not F E A R, for I am with you; do not << be dismayed, for I am your God." Isaiah 41:10, NIV



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121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135

>> "So do not \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ \_\_ , for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." Isaiah 41:10, NIV <<

Answer: fear

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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:**

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Deadline for articles for the **October** issue of *The Messenger* is **September 18<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**