



*The Messenger*  
Grace United Methodist Church  
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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.*

**March 2017**

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

### A TIME OF REFLECTION

I invite you to join me in a time of reflection during this season of Lent that begins on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The demands of daily living make it all too easy to move from day to day without ever stopping to examine how things are going. Without reflection we can find ourselves moving step by step further from being who God created us to be. Christ offers all who will accept it, the possibility for becoming all God created us to be.

During Lent we will be offering a study each Wednesday evening at 7pm, a daily devotional on Facebook, worship services each Sunday morning at 10:30am, and sessions with the pastor by appointment. There will also be special services on Ash Wednesday at 7pm (March 1<sup>st</sup>), Maundy Thursday at 7pm (April 13<sup>th</sup>), and Good Friday from Noon-3pm.

Yours in Christ's Service,



*David E. Smith*

David E. Smith, Pastor

## MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

### 3/01 – Ash Wednesday

Scripture	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Psalter	#785 – Psalm 51:1-17
Theme	Called to true repentance. Imposition of Ashes
Sermon	Beyond Sunday Morning
Hymns	#305 Take Time to be Holy #349 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus #2129 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

### 3/05 – Lent 1 – Communion

Scripture	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11
Affirmation	#885 – A Modern Affirmation
Theme	Called to put God first.
Sermon	The Three Great Temptations
Hymns	#398 Jesus Calls Us #2105 Jesus Tempted in the Desert #2158 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

### 3/12 – Lent 2 – Girl Scout Sunday

Scripture	Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17
Affirmation	Litany for Girl Scout Sunday
Theme	God reaches out to all.
Sermon	Destined for Salvation
Hymns	#2218 You Are Mine #2108 O How He Loves #507 Through it All

### 3/19 – Lent 3

Scripture	Exodus 17:1-7; John 4:5-42
Affirmation	#883 – We Are Not Alone
Theme	We need to trust the promises.
Sermon	The Long View
Hymns	#361 Rock of Ages #520 Nobody Knows the Trouble I Seen #526 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

### **3/26 – Lent 4 – One Great Hour of Sharing**

Scripture Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41  
Psalter #134 – Psalm 23  
Theme Jesus offers insight for life.  
Sermon That We Might See  
Hymns #57 O For a Thousand Tongues  
#432 Jesu, Jesu  
#349 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

### **4/02 – Lent 5 – Communion**

Scripture Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45  
Affirmation #887 – Affirmation from Romans 8  
Theme The Holy Spirit brings life.  
Sermon Breathe on Me  
Hymns #261 Lord of the Dance  
#262 Heal Me, Hands of Jesus  
#2139 Oh, I Know the Lord's Laid His Hands on Me

## LENTEN STUDY

### Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

This Lenten study asks us to take a long hard look at our life and allow Jesus to make it all God intends it to be. Pastor David invites you to join him in this journey toward a life that is a perfect reflection of Jesus. We will meet each Wednesday for six weeks from 7-8pm starting **March 8<sup>th</sup>**. Books for this study are available as a gift from the pastor at the church.



## ACOUSTIC DOORWAYS CONCERT

Once again, Grace UMC will be hosting an Acoustic Doorways Concert. The date is Friday, **March 10<sup>th</sup>** and doors will open at 6:30pm with music from 7-9pm. Admission is \$10...you can get them at the door or in advance at the RCS Community Library.

The genre for this year's event will be contra dance. The group will be highlighting steps for beginners to intermediate dancers. Caller will be Fern Bradley; pianist will be Alan Thomson; fiddle player will be Aldo

Lavaggi and percussionist will be Brian Melick.

As we've done in the past, Grace UMC is asking church members to donate refreshments and beverages for the evening during intermission time. If you'd like to help, please bring finger foods or baked goods that can be eaten easily from a napkin.

## EVANGELISM NEWS

Friday, **March 17<sup>th</sup>** is St. Patrick's Day AND, it's also the next Grace's Coffee House talent night. If you or someone you know has a special talent to share, please join us...6:30pm is registration time and at 7pm...the show will begin. The leprechauns should be flitting about and snacks and beverages will be provided.

The Evangelism Committee Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The next one is scheduled for **March 7<sup>th</sup>**. We invite new ideas and new members to join.



## LUNCH DURING SCHOOL VACATION

### The Brown Bag-It Lunch Program

The Brown Bag-It Lunch Program provides bagged lunches to students during school vacation who usually receive a free or reduced priced lunch at school. We have been asked to provide 400 Brown Bag-It Lunches for the April school vacation. Each student receives 5 lunches in one grocery bag for a school vacation.

The Brown Bag-It Lunch Consists of:

- Canned pasta product (like Ravioli or soup)
- Fruit product (raisins, apple-sauce, or fruit cup)
- A snack (individually wrapped cookies, pudding or crackers)
- A juice drink (100% PURE fruit juice)

Items are needed by **March 19<sup>th</sup>**. Cash contributions are also accepted.

Thank you for all you help!!!



## BOOK NOOK NEWS

The Book Nook total for 2017 as of February 19<sup>th</sup> is **\$1,437**.

Our first HUGE BOOK SALE of the year will be **March 23-25**. Thursday and Friday hours are 9am-3pm and 6-8pm and Saturday hours are 9am-3pm.

We will begin setting up after church on Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>. From Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> the working hours will be 9am-3pm and 6-8pm. On Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, any help after the close of the sale at 3pm would be appreciated to take down and clean up.

There will be sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall starting next Sunday. Please HELP if you are able or if you can't, please consider dropping off a snack for the workers.

If your place of work has a bulletin board, posting a copy of our advertisement (available in fellowship hall as well) would be appreciated.

If while cleaning out your bookshelves you find some books you can bear to part with, we would welcome them.

Our goal is \$1,500 and hopefully we will exceed this.

## FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Saturday, **March 25<sup>th</sup>** from 6-8:30pm the Sunday School and Youth will be having a NERF battle at Grace United Methodist Church. More details to come.

We'll be sending care packages to our youth in college. If you have a child who is a student in college or know of some student who could use a pick-me-up, please forward the addresses to Kate Robertson by **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to everyone who is celebrating a birthday or anniversary in March!

6 Fran Lobdell  
13 Dotty Backlund  
14 Sandy Racey  
16 Logan Moss  
19 Vera Mahnken  
20 Erick Mattick  
21 Ray & Jan Bradshaw  
21 Emily Buckley-Crist  
26 Mary Alice Van Wie  
27 Joseph Bliss  
29 James June

## TAX INFO

Just a reminder that if you would like a statement of your donations to Grace UMC for 2016, please see Harriet Marple and she will be happy to provide it.

## BARGAIN SHED

The Bargain Shed will open for the 2017 season on Saturday, **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. We look forward to seeing everyone again!

To prepare for our opening, the volunteers will be working during the week prior with the following schedule:

Monday, March 27	9am – 1pm
Tuesday, March 28	12:30 – 3:30pm
Wednesday, March 29	9am – 1pm
Thursday, March 30	9am – 1pm
Friday, March 31	9am – ?

Donations of clean items, in good condition may be dropped off anytime the workers are there. PLEASE, PLEASE do not leave items outside in the weather. We do not accept TV's, computers or exercise equipment.

The items we welcome are: clothing, shoes, kitchenware, glassware, small appliances, jewelry, toys, seasonal

items, linens, accessories, small pieces of furniture, craft items, etc.



## A NEW PASTOR

With the ending of Pastor David's Interim Appointment at the end of June, Grace will be receiving a new pastor. The Bishop and District Superintendents are currently in the midst of making appointments for the coming year; a church profile and information from the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee has been submitted to them for use in the appointment process. It is anticipated that by April a prospective appointment will be submitted to the SPPR Committee for review. Unless there are concerns raised, the Bishop will appoint the suggested pastor. The selection of a pastor for consideration by SPPR is carried out in an attitude of prayerful consideration by the Bishop and District Superintendents.



## VBS 2017 – HERO CENTRAL 5-8pm – June 26-30

You don't want to miss VBS 2017. It is filled with great music, videos, crafts, stories, and fun. Check out our VBS web site: [cokeburyvbs.com/ravena](http://cokeburyvbs.com/ravena) for an intro video, audio of the songs, and to register your child.

Watch the newsletter and the VBS web site for updates on Hero Central.

## WHY GO TO CHURCH

If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is still hope!

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them.

So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals.

But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work.

If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL !

B. I. B. L. E. could simply mean: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

If you are about to share this with others, the devil will try to discourage you.

But go on! Share this with people who are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD.

— *Author Unknown*





# The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

*Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.  
Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.*

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_

When I am in \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ to you,  
 because you \_\_\_\_\_ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.  
 Psalm 86:7, 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](http://www.graceumcravena.org)



Deadline for articles for the **April** issue of *The Messenger* is **March 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please give or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

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