



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.

April 2017

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

FEAR NOT

Fear not in today's world can seem like an impossible demand; but I believe that is the Good News of the Easter story. Because Jesus, the son of God, died on the cross for us; we can be freed from guilt over past wrongdoings. Because of the promise of the Holy Spirit we are never alone; the very presence of God can strengthen and equip us. Because of the resurrection, we know that God's love is stronger even than death. Because of Jesus we know that despite the evil that exists in the world we know that God's way of love will win.

In the events of daily life where we have freedom to choose good or evil, like Jesus we will know difficulties, experience events that are unfair, know joy and sorrow; but God's love is greater than all of this and will triumph. God's kingdom will come in all its fullness at a time that nobody knows and in ways large and small through the work of individuals who are committed to following the ways of Jesus and share the gifts bestowed upon them by the Holy Spirit.

I see God at work even now as the Gospel is preached, the hungry are fed, the sick are healed, the chains of addiction are broken, the troubled are comforted, individuals are reconciled with one another, and the terminally ill face death with the hope of the resurrection. I praise God for all those who hear and respond to God's call to be in ministry, laity and clergy.

Yours in Christ's Service,



David E. Smith

David E. Smith, Pastor



APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES

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

April 9 – Palm Sunday

Scripture	Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11
Psalter	#839 – Psalm 118
Theme	A different messiah.
Sermon	Servant King
Hymns	279 Mantos y Palmas (Filled with Excitement) 338 Where He Leads Me 374 Standing on the Promises

April 13 – Maundy Thursday – Communion

Scripture	1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Affirmation	Litany for Maundy Thursday
Theme	Called to serve.
Sermon	Saved for Service
Hymns	292 What Wondrous Love 614 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

April 14 – Good Friday – Noon – 3pm

Scripture	Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
Theme	He suffered and died for me and you.
Sermon	The Costly Gift
Hymns	288 Were You There 292 What Wondrous Love 2108 O How He Loves 297 Beneath the Cross of Jesus 290 Go to Dark Gethsemane 298 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

April 16 – Easter Sunrise Service

Scripture Matthew 28:1-10
Theme Called to share Good News.
Sermon Go and Tell
Hymns 327 Christ the Lord is Risen Today
310 He Lives

April 16 – Easter – Communion

Scripture Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-8
Theme We like Christ have conquered death.
Sermon Alive
Hymns 302 Christ the Lord is Risen Today
307 Christ is Risen
314 In the Garden

April 23 – Easter 2

Scripture 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
Psalter #748 – Psalm 16
Theme Christ meets us where we are at.
Sermon Dare to Believe
Hymns 304 Easter People Raise Your Voices
2115 Christ Has Risen
420 Breathe on Me Breath of God

April 30 – Easter 3 – Native American Awareness

Scripture 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
Affirmation Litany for Native American Awareness Sunday
Theme In our journey the risen Christ encounters us.
Sermon The Road to Emmaus
Hymns 454 Open My Eyes
378 Amazing Grace
2226 Bind Us Together



April 14: Noon-3pm – Good Friday
(breaks every half-hour)

April 14: 7pm – Ecumenical Good
Friday Service – Riverside Baptist
Church

April 16: 6am – Easter Sunrise Service

April 16: 6:30am – Easter Breakfast



LENT / EASTER EVENTS

LENTEN STUDY

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our
Mess

Mondays: 7-8:30pm thru April 17th

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

Thursdays: 7pm and Sunday 10:30am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Class: 9am

Children: During Worship, after

Children's Message

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesdays: 9am-Noon – Friends Around
the Fireplace

Sundays: 11:30am

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 9: 10:30am – Palm Sunday

April 13: 7pm – Maundy Thursday
Service

EVANGELISM NEWS

On March 4th, we hosted a live-streaming event by well-known speaker Jason Moore. Although we missed the afternoon session due to technical difficulties, we truly benefited from the morning session. Mr. Moore shared from his many experiences of being a “trained visitor” with various UMC congregations. Based on these visits, he was able to provide many effective strategies for becoming a more welcoming church. You should begin to notice many positive changes based on the suggestions in this inspirational workshop.

On St. Patrick's Day, we hosted another successful Coffee House. We heard many Irish songs and stories. We also enjoyed instrumental performances from the Robertson family and

friends. It's always great to see talented children and new faces!

As we look forward to Spring, please be sure to mark your calendar for our Friendship Sunday on May 7th. Since the success or failure of this event rests solely on the congregation's willingness to invite friends to church, we ask everyone to prayerfully consider who you'd like to invite. In return, we promise to have a special gift for each guest and a wonderful pot luck lunch following the service!

****Start thinking about who you'll invite** and ****Dare to envision a sanctuary full of new friends.******

BARGAIN SHED TO OPEN

April 1st (opening day) is coming soon! Our volunteers will be working 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 – ?

Your donations may be dropped off anytime workers are there. We ask that donations NOT be left outside. A reminder: We do not accept TVs, computers or exercise equipment.

We DO appreciate donations of clothing, shoes, kitchenware, glassware, small appliances, jewelry, toys, seasonal items, linens, accessories, small pieces of furniture, craft items, etc.

Come see all the wonderful bargains!

NOTE: The Shed will be closed on Thursday, **April 13th** (Maundy Thursday).

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mark your calendars! On Friday, **April 28th** from 6:30-8:30pm we will be having NERF night at the church. Bring your friends and your NERF guns and join us for a night of fun. Drinks and snacks will be included and Nerf guns will be available to those who don't have them.

Our pancake breakfast was a success! About 30 people braved the snow to come to breakfast and enjoyed eggs, bacon and pancakes. We raised \$490 for UNICEF that morning to bring our grand total raised to \$800!!! That exceeded our goal for the year and is more than we've raised for UNICEF in years. Thank you once again to our congregation for their generosity and support of our mission projects. A

special thank you to Michelle Wagner for her help in the kitchen, Edna Rominger and Cindy Bliss for food donations, Pastor David for agreeing to preach in his pajamas and Keith Hoyt at Save-a-Lot Foods for his generous donation of eggs, bacon, juice and butter.

Over 20 people attended our movie night on February 24th to see *Miracles from Heaven*. A fun night was had by all. Thank you to Mike and Wendy Mattick for arranging the set up and clean up of the movie screen and Christine Frazee who helped with food.

Thank you to everyone who donated items to Street Soldiers to benefit the homeless. Several bags of clothes, snacks and toiletry items were given to Street Soldiers to hand out at the Washington Avenue Armory on Friday nights.

This year we will be collecting Easter items for the Food Pantry. We are looking for donations of Easter baskets and grass to fill them, Easter candy, plastic eggs and little gifts to fill the baskets. For example, small children's books, games or toys, new stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons. Donations will be collected until Sunday, **April 9th**.

NOTE: There will not be Sunday School on Easter morning or the

following Sunday which is part of Spring Break.



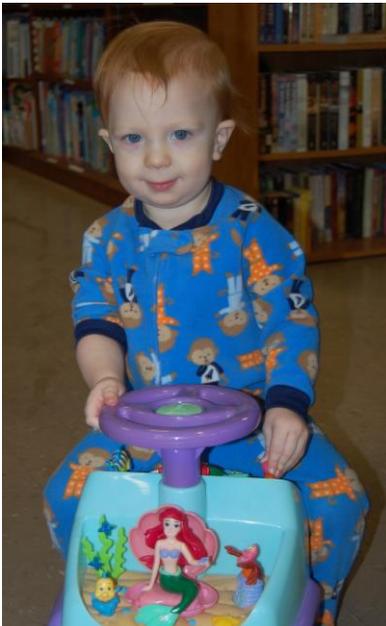


Congratulations to everyone who is celebrating a birthday in April!

- 2 Paul Maurer
- 5 Blake Frazee
- 7 Victoria Youmans
- 8 Logan Lambert
- 9 Matt Baumback
- 10 Caelin Gordon-Stacey
- 14 Abigail Kennedy
- 17 Aaron June
- 19 Grace Buckley-Crist
- 26 Katie Beswick
- 27 Ann Coryell
- 30 Barbara Lisa
- 30 Sidney Young

TAX INFO

Just one final 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.





BOOK NOOK NEWS

As of March 19th the Book Nook Sales total was \$2,223!

Also, one of our volunteers, Patricia Anderson, had a leading role in the Cocksackie-Athens High School Play – *The Addams Family*. Tricia played “Grandma”. Liana Frauenberger was a member of the backstage crew. It was a wonderful production, so “Great Job” to our young friends.



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

Planning Meeting – 7pm – April 18th
– come and preview the fun and learning of Hero Central. There will be a great video segment, music, and an exploration of the week’s themes.

Check out our VBS web site, www.cokesburyvbs.com/ravena for an intro video, audio of the songs, and to

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

A NEW PASTOR

With the end of Pastor David’s Interim Appointment at the end of June, Grace will be receiving a new pastor. The District Superintendent is currently at work with the Bishop on appointments for the Albany District and hopes to be presenting a pastor for consideration shortly. See the March newsletter for details on the appointment process.



WHEN WE CAN'T FIND EASTER

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day...except when it’s not. What do we do when our mood isn’t what we think it “should” be? The kids are sugared up, we’re juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns – however rousing fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, “What’s *wrong* with me, that I can’t seem to find Easter?”

Been there, done that. And it’s okay.
You’re okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us – if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed – and you shall be too.

–Heidi Mann



JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.

What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



What you do:

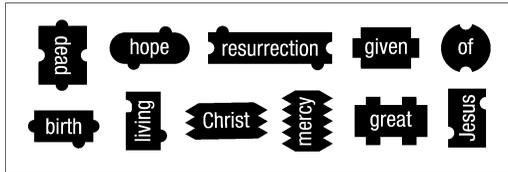
1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.

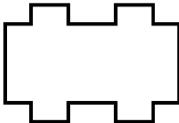
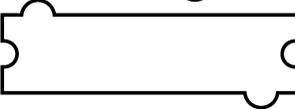
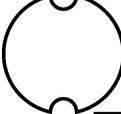
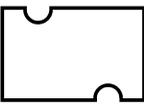
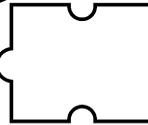


> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.



In his   he has
 us new  into a
  through the
  
 from the .

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, 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 **May** issue of *The Messenger* is **April 23rd**. Please give or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com