



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

www.graceumcravena.org
518-756-6688

Pastor Kim Krause

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.

July 2017

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends,

THANK YOU for your warm welcome on July 2nd – the nametags welcoming me to Grace was a wonderful way of helping me to get to know each of you, not to mention the gathering after church and your gifts (especially for remembering I have a puppy and don't drink coffee), your grace as I learn how things operate and the welcoming of my energetic puppy Molly.

I look forward to the small group/"neighborhood" gatherings that are in the early stages of being planned. The hope is to have small groups be able to meet with me and let me know what is important for each of you at Grace UMC and what dreams you may have for our future. My job during this time will be to listen, perhaps asking a question or two, but mainly to really hear from you – the church – what is on your heart and where you see God leading Grace UMC in the future.

We are in the middle of our summer, vacation, and less-scheduled time. I pray that each of you has multiple opportunities to relax and recreate (or as some say re-create), spend time with family and friends, and enjoy this wonderful creation that God has placed us in.

I especially like to watch the fireflies/lightening bugs as they create an amazing light show – one of God’s gifts to us, one that science has no explanation for how it works. Enjoy God’s handiwork and give thanks for all that God has done and is doing for each of us.

In Christ’s Service,



Pastor Kim



FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Coming up...don't forget...Tuesday, August 8th at 6:30pm, we will be having our very own Amazing Race in Ravena. Come join us as teams race against each other to perform tasks and complete challenges, with the winning team taking home a prize! Youth of any age are welcome to participate and adult volunteers are needed. Please contact Kate if interested.

Then on Thursday, August 17th at 6:30pm our annual Backpack Blessing and free community dinner will be held. As always we will be offering school supplies and backpacks to individuals in need. Please keep your eyes on back-to-school sales and pick up items to donate! We appreciate your help.

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

\$3/Bag Sale – from now through August 5th the Bargain Shed will have a bag sale of all items (excluding furniture) in the shop.

After the 5th we will be changing over to our Fall/Winter stock.

Stop in and take advantage of this great deal!

Receipts to date total **\$2,691.75!**

Many thanks for all the donations we have received and for your patronage.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to everyone who is celebrating a birthday or an anniversary 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 & Pastor Allen
18 John Ginder
18 Stacey Youmans
21 Jonathan Haslett
21 Evangelyn Seymour
22 Mark Contreras
24 Gabriella Selbe
25 Devin Whitney
25 Ryan Roe



OUR FALL FAIR IS APPROACHING!

Our Annual Fall Fair will be held on Saturday, September 30th. We will be having a planning meeting at 6:30pm on Tuesday, August 22nd. Please see the flyer below for some of the details for the fair.



Fall Fair!
Saturday, September 30, 2017
TIME: 9:00am till 3:00pm
Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive Ravena, NY 12143

FEATURING:
\$2.50 A BAG BOOK SALE
The Bargain Shed
Silent Auction
Crafts
1:00pm Costumed Pet Parade
Country Kitchen-
Offering Baked Goods,
Canned Good Items AND CANDY!
Bouncy House and Face Painting for the Kids



\$10.- BBQ CHICKEN LUNCH
To Stay or To Go

BOOK NOOK UPDATE

Our July Book Sale was a HUGE success...we brought in **\$3,303!** A big thank you goes to everyone who contributed in any way.

With that being said, our YTD total sales are **\$11,190!**

KNOW YOUR TARGET

(Editor's Note: *I recall years ago, upon return from a youth group camp, youth from our very own church reported doing this same exercise.*)

Businesses must know their target market. Writers must know their target audience. And we all make better decisions when we consider the target of our actions.

A college religion teacher set up a cardboard target in his classroom. "Draw someone who has upset you," he instructed. Students sketched ex-boyfriends or -girlfriends, coworkers who'd mistreated them, childhood bullies. Each, in turn, then placed their drawing over the bull's-eye and took aim with a bow and arrow. Afterward, the bull's-eye was riddled with holes. The students congratulated one another...until the teacher pulled back the target, revealing Jesus' scarred, torn face.

Silence fell as he read: "Truly I tell you; just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

In choosing actions – no matter the human target – remember who else will be struck by your arrows. Let's take aim with love, not hurt.

SUNDAY SCHOOL'S ORIGINS

Sunday school began in England as early as 1751. Better known is Robert Raikes' work in Gloucester 30 years later. Concerned about poor children who worked in factories six days a week and often turned to crime, he offered classes on the only day kids were free. Soon various organizations offered a loose network of such Sunday schools, which taught basic reading and writing, using the Bible as a text.

Ten years later, Samuel Slater started the first U.S. Sunday school in his Rhode Island textile mills. By the mid-1800s, Sunday school attendance was an almost-universal childhood experience. As society became more secular and public education was mandated by the 1870s, Sunday schools focused on spiritual practices: prayers, hymns, catechism knowledge and Scripture memorization.

Well into the 20th century, Sunday school served as the church's main outreach tool. Many adults fondly remember their teachers and lessons, and Sunday school continues to play a significant part in faith development.



LOVE'S LESSON

A new school year promises new adventures, challenges and friends – as well as new classes, homework and lessons. But the most important (and simplest) lesson we can learn is summed up by 19th-century hymn writer Jane Eliza Leeson:

Savior, teach me day by day
love's sweet lesson to obey,
sweeter lesson cannot be,
loving him who first loved me.

HOLINESS 2.0

For the Hebrews, who had experienced the anguish of slavery and exile, holiness had to do with separation. Adherence to sacred law [ensured] that they would not be absorbed into a foreign culture, a legitimate fear for them as a people. The Law was quite functional in preserving their Jewish identity.

[But] Jesus turns this custom upside down. Rather than insist on separation, he preaches inclusion. Rather than remove himself from “sinners,” he joins with them in love. For Jesus, holiness is about connection, not separation. It is about putting aside the fear of our own alienation and

annihilation while trusting in love to
heal every breach.

—*Quantum Grace*, Judy Cannato

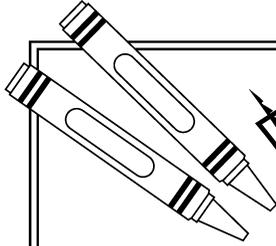
THE HEART OF JESUS

The idea of a spiritual heart transplant
is a vivid image to me; once you have
the heart of somebody else inside you,
then that heart is there. Jesus' heart is

inside me, and my heart is gone. So if
God were to place a stethoscope
against my chest, he would hear the
heart of Jesus Christ beating.

—*Max Lucado*





PUZZLE

BE HAPPY IN THE LORD

Happiness and joy are frequent themes in the Old Testament book of Psalms.

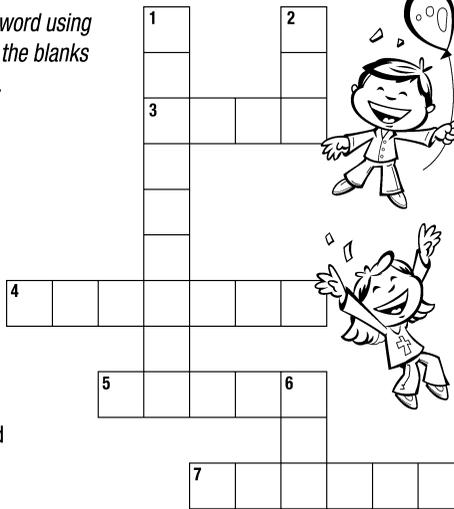
Directions: Solve the crossword using the clues below. Then fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse.

ACROSS

- 3. A word for happy (rhymes with had)
- 4. What you do when you're very happy
- 5. A song written by David
- 7. Full of joy

DOWN

- 1. People who obey God
- 2. Our Creator
- 6. The month after April



“But may the 1. _____ be 3. _____ and
 4. _____ before 2. _____; 6. _____ they
 be happy and 7. _____.” 5. _____ 68:3, NIV

Answers: (across) 3. glad, 4. rejoice, 5. psalm, 7. joyful; (down) 1. righteous, 2. God, 6. may and joyful.” Psalm 68:3, NIV

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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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 20th**. Please give or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com