



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.

October 2017

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Greetings Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

One of the things that I love about being a United Methodist is the connectional system that we have. We have an opportunity to take advantage of this piece of our heritage on October 5th – Albany District Day with Bishop Mark J. Webb. The theme for his tour throughout the Upper New York Annual Conference will be "A Way Forward".

This year's District Days is set up in such a way that will facilitate active discussion. In each District, conversations will be had in small groups based on questions originating with the United Methodists Commission on a Way Forward, which is a group of laity and clergy from across our global church that was gathered together by the Council of Bishops to work on the issues related to human sexuality which arose from the 2016 General Conference.

Bishop Webb will gather with the Albany Clergy and Laity on Thursday, October 5th, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Shenendehowa UMC, 971 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

I encourage you to join me and others from Albany District for this opportunity.

Peace,



Pastor Kim



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PASTOR

Here's your opportunity to get to know Pastor Kim. Pastor Parish Relations will be arranging small gatherings, preferably outside of church, of between 6 to 10 people. If you would like to host one at your house or would like to attend a gathering, please let us know. You can send an email to graceumcravena@statetel.com or MikeMattick@yahoo.com.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Planning for the annual Halloween Party is underway! If you're a youth in middle or high school and would like to help out, please contact Annie Coryell. The youth will be meeting on **Friday, October 13 at 7pm** and **Saturday, October 14 at noon** to set up. The party starts at **5:30pm** and includes dinner followed by games, crafts and the much anticipated Haunted Hallway. Please join us for a fun evening and bring a friend! Cost of admission is one canned good for the food pantry.



We need new or gently used Halloween costumes for infants – age 13 to benefit local Ravena children
Donations being collected from now – October 14th

Donations can be brought to the following locations:
RCS Community Library
Town Hall
Grace United Methodist Church

If your child needs a costume, please contact:
Kate Robertson at 518-225-1495

This year we're also doing a Halloween Costume drive to benefit local children who are struggling and unable to purchase a Halloween costume. We are collecting new or gently used Halloween costumes for kids from infant through age 13. Boxes to collect costumes are located at the RCS library, Town Hall and GUMC. The collection will run through **October 14** – we plan on distributing the costumes prior to the Halloween party. If you know of anyone who could benefit from the drive please contact Kate at **518-225-1495**.

Save your Halloween candy to donate to the troops! Once again we will be collecting Halloween candy,

toothbrushes and toothpaste to send to our military in care boxes via Operation Gratitude. Candy Collection will run from November 1 – 11.

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

The Fall Fair is here! All week prior to Fair day the volunteers work to transform the Shed into a Fall/Winter shopping extravaganza.

Clothing, shoes, linens, decorative items, etc. all reflect the coming colder (maybe) weather and holidays. Our traditional "\$3/bag sale" will be outside under canopies. Hope to see everyone on Fair day, September 30, from 9am to 3pm.

Sales to date total **\$3,889.75!**

FALL FAIR

It's just a tad bit early to report out on the success of the Fall Fair, but next month we can share some details about it.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to everyone celebrating a birthday or an anniversary in October!

3 Dashanna Siebold
5 Blake & Christine Frazee
6 Lisa & Paul Maurer
8 Barbara Coryell
9 Juliann Banahan
9 Ken (Jake) Bliss
11 Ken & Heather Meisner
12 Donna Newton
12 Rick & Kate Robertson
13 Don & Eleanor Moon
18 Carissa Van Alstyne
23 Hazel Lambert
25 Austin Bean
26 Danielle Lambert
27 Eleanor Moon
29 Sam Robertson
29 Alan Whitney

BOOK NOOK UPDATE

The Book Nook continues to be a very successful ministry. Our YTD sales through Saturday, September 23 are **\$12,585!**

SOUL POISON

There are two extremes. Those who rush to the doctor for every ache and pain; and those who avoid the doctor at all costs, telling themselves, “It’s not that bad.” But when an issue does need attentions, covering it up only makes it worse. If this is true of the physical body, how much more so of our souls.

When we are silent about our sin and shortcomings, our souls suffer. What begins as intentional minimizing of sin turns into blindness to both the sin and its effects. Our view of ourselves is skewed. We begin to say, “This is just who I am.” Sin not only damages our connection to God, but our connection to others.

David learned this firsthand when he tried to cover up his sin with Bathsheba. When the prophet Nathan confronted David, the cure for sin’s poison was revealed. As we confess and repent, God welcomes us back. Although the consequences of our choices remain, God’s forgiveness and the penetrating light of His truth bring life and restoration to our souls and relationships.

(Taken from *Today’s Turning Point with Dr. David Jeremiah*, Monday, August 21, 2017)

REFORMATION MILESTONE Celebration and Repentance

October 31, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his “95 Theses” on a church door in Germany. This wasn’t an unusual act at the time; Luther was simply welcoming scholarly debate. But his ideas opposing certain teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church led to a monumental shift in Christianity.

Along with other reformers, Luther taught that Scripture is the supreme authority for the believer; that salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone; and that baptism gives all full access to God in Christ (“the priesthood of all believers”), so there’s no need for an intermediary such as a pope, priest or saint.

Initially, the reformers intended not to leave the Catholic Church but to reform it. But those who protested church practices became known as Protestants, and eventually, multiple denominations arose – Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, Anglicanism and others – and did, in fact, separate from the Roman tradition.

Sadly, woven amid the good intentions to rightly teach and live the faith were

sins on all sides: Luther hurled insults “with the best of them”; the pope excommunicated him and had other reformers executed; the beliefs and faith of theological opponents were regularly disparaged. As Heinz Josef Algermissen, a present-day Roman Catholic bishop in Germany, states: “In commemorating the Reformation, we cannot just see it as a jubilee, but should also admit our guilt for past errors and repent on both sides for the past 500 years.”



WOMEN OF THE REFORMATION

Although the names most often associated with the Reformation are male, women also played key roles in maintaining the integrity of the church. “Most were wives and mothers,” Professor Justin Holcomb writes. “Some were also authors, apologists, ex-nuns and queens. All were faithful servants of Jesus.”

Women who made notable contributions include:

- Katherine von Bora, the former nun who married former-priest Martin Luther
- Argula von Grumbach, a Bavarian noblewoman who published letters and debated with university faculty
- Olympia Fulvia Morata, an Italian scholar who lectured on the teachings of Luther and Calvin – and was persecuted and imprisoned
- Jeanne d’Albret, queen of Navarre and a leader in France’s Huguenot movement, who tried to peacefully resolve tensions between Catholics and Protestants
- Marie Dentière, an aristocrat who left an Augustinian monastery to speak in public – even on street corners! – about church reform

A VOICE OF THE REFORMATION

“You cannot antagonize and influence at the same time.”

– *John Knox, a staunch follower of Calvin who brought Presbyterianism to Scotland*





The gift of grace

God's grace is a free gift, not something we can earn on our own. How do we have this gift?

Directions: Complete the Bible verse by placing the capital letters from the gifts on the blanks below.

F	u	O	R	L	t	A	s	W	v	w	G
I	x	V	p	E	N	M	q	O	S	a	r
E	r	S	e	G	R	m	A	C	E	d	T
R	U	n	T	H	T	H	R	k	O	U	G
H	j	J	E	S	f	U	S	u	C	o	H
R	b	I	y	p	S	T	J	O	i	H	N

“ _____ the _____ was _____
 through _____ ; _____ and
 _____ came _____
 _____ .”

_____ 1:17, NIV

Answer: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." John 1:17, NIV

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143-1409

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 **November** issue of *The Messenger* is **October 22**. Please give or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com