



The Messenger
Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravenna, 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.

February 2018

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Grace Family,

The season of Lent will be here quickly. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (this year on February 14) and ends 40 days later (minus Sundays) with the sundown of the day before Easter (Easter this year on April 1). The forty days represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tempted by Satan, and preparing to begin his public ministry.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ

The following is from *the United Methodist Book of Worship*:

The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.

It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation

was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you to observe a holy Lent:

by self-examination and repentance;

by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;

and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

May the Holy Spirit continue to help us to become the disciples that God desires us to be.

Peace,



Pastor Kim



NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED!

I am stepping down as editor of the Grace UMC newsletter. We are in need of new editor for the next edition. You can be as creative (or not) in your own chosen format and it doesn't necessarily need to be published every month.

Please consider volunteering. Talk to me, Pastor Kim or Fran Lobdell.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

For those of you who missed our unique Christmas pageant this year, here's a few photos from the show. The kids really enjoyed making the movie this year and we appreciated the congregation's acceptance to something new! We do have a copy of the pageant on a USB and can provide the narrative to anyone who missed it.





Save the date!

We are planning our annual movie night on Friday, **February 9** at 6:30. Please bring a friend and come join us! Drinks and snacks will be provided. We will be watching the 2015 movie War Room. The following is a synopsis of the film:

With great jobs, a beautiful daughter (Alena Pitts) and a dream house, the

Jordans seem to have it all. Appearances can be deceiving, however, as husband Tony (T.C. Stallings) flirts with temptation and wife Elizabeth (Priscilla Shirer) becomes increasingly bitter, crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take an unexpected turn for the better when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara (Karen Abercrombie), who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer.

EVANGELISM NEWS

Christmas can be a hectic time of year! But, also filled with tiny blessings along the way.

One of those blessings was displayed on the faces of those who opened their

doors to us in December when the Evangelism Committee (on behalf of Grace UMC) delivered small tins filled with homemade cookies to all our neighbors on Hillcrest Drive. We traveled by foot, carrying a portable CD player in order to share Christmas music as well!

It was amazing to see the reactions of our neighbors! We look forward to continuing this ministry every year and perhaps extending it beyond Hillcrest Drive. Thanks to Pastor Kim for bringing this idea to us from her previous church.



In 2018, the Evangelism team (aka: committee) will try something new. Based on a recent DLT (District Leadership Team) workshop, we will be incorporating several key aspects of discipleship into our monthly meetings. In the process, we seek to grow and

learn new approaches of sharing the Good News.

Here's a brief description of the workshop presented on January 20:

"More than Another Church Meeting"
by Phyllis Shook

During a typical church meeting, we open and close with a short prayer and spend the majority of our time planning events and problem solving. Unfortunately, this may not be the best way to move forward as Christ's church in the world. Except for the prayers, our meetings have become very secular. Ideally, a church meeting should be equally devoted to learning, leading and developing Christ-like attributes.

I recently attended a district wide workshop held at Calvary UMC entitled "Creating an L3 Environment". **L-3 stands for "Loving, Learning, Leading"**. The idea is to incorporate these 3 important aspects of discipleship into our church meetings...thereby transforming them. This new approach is already working at the conference (UNY) level. They are leading by example. And, they are convinced of its value for the local church.

By adopting the L3 model, local churches will learn to focus its internal ministries and community outreach on Jesus Christ.

Yes, change can be difficult. Habits can be hard to break. So, we will need to take baby steps. A little change here...a little there...and all of a sudden we're making a breakthrough!

We Methodists love our committees. That's why it may take time for the L3 concept to be adopted by all committees (teams). We've been doing it "that way" for a long time. But, if the goal is to "grow" we may need to change. Without the risk of change, we run the risk of becoming stagnate or irrelevant. Let's consider doing things differently. One step at a time.

The Evangelism team is ready...we welcome other committees/teams to take a step with us.

For more information about "Creating an L3 Environment" for your committee/team, please feel free to contact myself or Ellen Mall-John (DLT Chairperson). At the Albany District Office and leave a message.

*******Mark Your Calendar*******

The next DLT event is scheduled for **February 10** at McKownville UMC. (See the Flyer on our church bulletin board for all the details)

Grace's Coffee House Coming Again
Our next Coffee House is scheduled for **March 16**. Registration time will be from 6:30-7pm and then the show will begin!

Our theme this time will be St. Patrick's Day. So start thinking *Irish* for something you'd like to present. If you don't care to perform, please come and join our audience for a fun-filled evening.

Mark it on your calendar so you don't forget.



Pastor Kim is interested in leading a study during Lent on Wednesday evenings, which can also include a light meal together. The planned study is *Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess*, by Tom Berlin. If you are interested in participating in this study, please sign up outside the main office. Exact time and meal details will be worked out once there are enough people signed up. The study will begin on Wednesday, **February 21**.

Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess

By: [Tom Berlin](#)

This Lent, look at your mess through the eyes of Christ. The good news of the gospel is that by the grace of

Christ, found in the love of his death and resurrection, we can be restored to the image of God in which we were created. In **Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess**, Tom Berlin encourages reflection and meditation through our own brokenness through the use of Scripture, devotional tools, and the writings of Ignatius of Loyola, John of the Cross, St. Augustine, John Wesley, Evelyn Underhill, and others.

BOOK NOOK SALE REMINDER

The Book Nook's semi-annual HUGE BOOK SALE will be **February 22, 23, and 24**. So, update the list of books you're looking for and get your book donations (good condition: no torn or damaged covers, missing pages, mold, dirt, and, water-damage free) ready. We will be accepting donations through February 20 only, with no additional donations accepted until March 6 (so we can set up and take down the sale). And, please, no donations of text books, old encyclopedias, and computer or medical/health books more than five years old. We are especially looking for recent hardcover novels (2016 and 2017 copyright dates).

We are also in need of volunteers to post promotion signs at local

establishments around the area a few weeks before the sale, help with set up (*February 18 – 21*), take down (at the end of day *Feb. 24 – March 6, or until done*), and to serve as cashiers and general helpers during the sale. Signup sheets will be in Fellow-ship hall. You get five free books for helping.

BARGAIN SHED OPENING

Time has gone quickly and the Bargain Shed volunteers will soon be preparing to open for the 2018 season. Weather permitting; the Shed will open on Saturday, March 24.

The shop will be open as in the past: Tuesday's from 9-Noon., Thursday from 6-8pm and Saturday 9-Noon.

During the week of March 19, donations will be accepted whenever someone is at the shop. It is requested that items brought in be clean and in good working order. It would also help us if donated clothing could be seasonal (spring/summer now, fall/winter later) since storage space is limited. We do not accept TVs, computers or exercise equipment.

We look forward to another year of serving our Church and the community.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Grace UMC anticipates starting a Financial Peace University class shortly after Easter (early April). Financial Peace University is a 9-week course created by Dave Ramsey that teaches about handling money. The cost per family unit would be \$109. If you are interested in being a part of this class, please let Pastor Kim know (text, e-mail, or written note) so that we have an idea if we need to run more than one class. We also hope to invite the community in to take the class with us. Also, please indicate whether a weekday evening or weekend afternoon would work better.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to everyone having a birthday or anniversary in February!

4 Anne Frauenberger
5 Linda Sherman
7 John Robertson
14 Kathy Porterfield
16 Casey Sherman
17 Amy Devine-Young
19 Meaghan Houk
20 Sharon Phillips
24 Amy & Mark Young

TAX TIME

If you'd like information on your 2017 giving for tax reporting, please see Harriet Marple.

SPAGHETTI DINNER February 17

Many hands make light work and there are plenty of opportunities to sign up for to make this free-will offering event a big success: prepping the dessert station, the kitchen, Fellowship Hall; making meatballs, sauces and salads; filling sugar bowls, creamers, salt and pepper shakers; organizing silverware, napkins, dishes; arranging tables and chairs; or setting up beverage stations, a take-out area with rolls, butter, salad dressings and desserts.

Take-outs will be available starting at 4:30-5:30pm or you can dine in the Fellowship Hall from 5-6:30pm.



A PENGUIN "PARABLE"

During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the

center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

MARRIED FOR A MISSION

Jesus’ command to seek first God’s kingdom (Matthew 6:33) is a key component of successful, God-honoring marriages, writes Gary Thomas in *A Lifelong Love* (David C. Cook). In fact, Thomas says being “married for a mission” can renew many unions in which partners think they’re merely incompatible. “My suspicion is that many of these couples actually suffer from a lack of purpose,” he writes. “Jesus’ words given to

individuals in Matthew 6:33 are perhaps even truer in marriage. When we give away our life, we find it. When we focus outside our marriage, we end up strengthening our marriage.”

10 BIBLICAL WAYS TO LOVE

1. Listen without interrupting. “To answer before listening – that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. “The righteous give without sparing” (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. “We have not stopped praying for you” (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife” (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. “Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. “Do everything without grumbling or arguing” (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. “[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:7).

9. Forgive without punishing. “Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13).

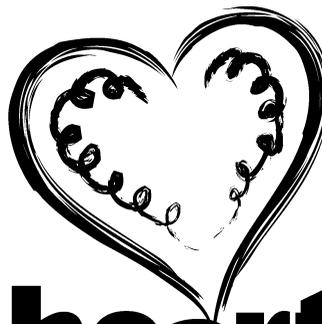
10. Promise without forgetting. “A longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).

–From various websites;
all Scriptures NIV



“Love doesn’t make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.”

–Franklin P. Jones.



heart sandwich

Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine’s Day.



What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)

What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you’re using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.

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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, including meetings and special events.

OR VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.graceumcravena.org

