



*The Messenger*  
Grace United Methodist Church  
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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.*

**April 2018**

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR**

Dear Grace Family,

What a strange year so far! Lent started on Valentine's Day and we have experienced almost summer-like days, periods of beautiful sun with freezing temperatures, and a few nor'easters - all within a few months! April, too, begins a bit strange – with Easter, of all things. But in some ways, Easter is the perfect day to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. After all, isn't it one of the greatest jokes played on the civil and religious authorities that sought to permanently quiet Jesus? They believed that Jesus' death, especially one so public and brutal, would not only silence Jesus, but His followers as well. But the joke was on them. Not only did they not silence Jesus – but they created the perfect storm for Jesus and His followers to continue His work here on earth! That work continues today for you and me! We are called to serve – to love God and love our neighbors – without exception. We are called to share the Good News. How will we, Grace UMC, continue the work that we are called to do? How will we encourage each other to be the hands and feet of Jesus? What new ways will we find ourselves serving our community. As we move forward in our faith journey, let us work together to put our faith and love into action.



Peace, Pastor Kim



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

On Easter Sunday, the children will be singing a song for the church service.

I've attached the YouTube video so you can hear the lyrics and see the hand motions. It's pretty simple and shouldn't be hard if you haven't been here. If you those of you with younger kids could practice this at home a bit, that would be great.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byhm1oSEQ>

Just a reminder that there will not be any Sunday school class on Easter Sunday or the following week on April 8th due to the break. I'll have little bags to entertain the little ones during the service again.

Bring some friends-it's a fun low key evening and an easy way to bring someone new into church. If you know you're attending and could shoot me a note so I have a rough idea how many to expect and/or what food you might be bringing that would be great.

We'll have our Resurrection Egg Hunt following the church service on Easter morning. Again, if your child will be there, if you could let me know it makes planning much easier on my end! Thank you, Kate

## EVANGELISM NEWS

In March, we hosted another successful Grace Coffee House. We enjoyed a variety of entertainment, including an amateur comedienne who just happened to stop by after seeing our flyer at the Silver Spoon.

Our next coffee house event will be held in June (date TBA)

## USING THE L-3 PATTERN IN MEETINGS

L-3 stands for "Loving, Learning, Leading". The idea is to incorporate these 3 important aspects of discipleship into our church meetings. This new approach has been successfully implemented by the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. Leading by example, they are eager to shepherd the local church in this pattern of "loving, learning and leading."

The Evangelism team has been practicing the L-3 pattern at its last two monthly meetings. By simply adding a brief time of devotion in the beginning of the meeting, we're making room for discipleship and spiritual growth during our meetings.

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

## BOOK NOOK SALE REMINDER

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered (and shopped) at the HUGE Winter Book Sale and helped to make it a success. We made a total of \$2,161.45.

Also, mark your calendars. The Book Nook will be reopening on Thursday evenings 6 to 8 pm for the Spring/Summer/Fall season.

## BARGAIN SHED

The Bargain Shed is now open for the 2018 season!

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

## APRIL

2 Paul Maurer  
2 Phyllis Shook  
5 Blake Frazee  
7 Victoria Youmans  
8 Logan Lambert  
9 Matt Baumbach  
10 Caelin Gordon-Stacey  
12 Pastor David  
14 Abigail Kennedy  
17 Aaron June  
19 Grace Buckley-Crist  
21 Will & Linda Somers  
26 Katie Beswick  
27 Ann Coryell  
30 Barbara Lisa  
30 Sidney Young

## Parable of the Twin Fetuses

by **David Anderson** on June 10, 2013

*Life each day presents us with the unknown. What will happen? What will not happen? Our great fear is simply not knowing what comes next—and our ultimate fear is of the end. What happens when we die?*

*The big fear—of death—is expressed in all the little fears that roil our hearts, the hundred things each day we can't predict or control.*

*The antidote is simply trust: to rest in whatever grace is sustaining us in this moment, and trusting that this same grace will be there in the next moment, and the next, and the next.*

*I like this Parable of the Twin Fetuses.*

Once upon a time, a set of twins were conceived in the same womb.

Weeks passed, and the twins developed. As their awareness grew, they laughed for joy, "Isn't it great that we were conceived? Isn't it great to be alive?"

Together the twins explored their world. When they found their mother's cord that gave them life they sang for joy, "How great is our mother's love that she shares her own life with us."

As the weeks stretched into months the twins noticed how much each was changing.

"What does this mean?" asked the one.

"It means that our stay in this world is drawing to an end," said the other.

"But I don't want to go," said the one.

"I want to stay here always."

"We have no choice," said the other, "but maybe there is life after birth!"

"But how can it be?" responded the one. "We will shed our life cord, and how is life possible without it? Besides, we have seen evidence that others were here before us and none of them have returned to tell us that there is life after birth."

And so the one fell into deep despair saying, "If conception ends with birth, what is the purpose of life in the womb? It is meaningless! Maybe there is no mother at all."

"But there has to be," protested the other. "How else did we get here? How do we remain alive?"

"Have you ever seen our mother?" said the one. "Maybe she lives in our minds. Maybe we made her up because the idea made us feel good."

Thus, while one raved and despaired, the other resigned himself to birth. He placed his hands in the trust of the mother.

Hours passed into days and days fell into weeks, and it came time. And both knew that their...birth was at hand. And both feared what they did not know.

And as the one was the first to be conceived, so he was the first to be born. The other followed after. And they cried as they were born out into the light. They coughed up fluid, and they gasped the dry air; and when they were sure that they had been born,

they opened up their eyes and they found themselves cradled in the warm love of the mother. They lay open-mouthed, awestruck at the beauty of the mother whom they had never seen before."

## Bible Quiz



In John 10, what metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself?

- A. "I am the gate ..."
- B. "I am the good shepherd ..."
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B

Answer: C (See John 10:9, 11.)



# RESURRECTION HOPE



Romans 6:5 reveals the hope we have because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter.



*Directions: First solve the math problems. Then put the corresponding words in the blanks; for example, the word next to the answer "1" goes in the first blank, the word next to the answer "2" goes in the second blank, and so on.*

- |                     |                  |                        |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 2+2 = ___ united    | 2x3 = ___ death  | 7+6 = ___ resurrection |
| 3x3 = ___ certainly | 18-16 = ___ have | 4-1 = ___ been         |
| 0+1 = ___ if        | 2x4 = ___ we     | 13-1 = ___ him         |
| 2+3 = ___ in        | 20-6 = ___ like  | 2+5 = ___ his          |
| 2x5 = ___ be        | 8+3 = ___ with   |                        |

"For 1 we 2 3 4  
 with him 5 a 6 like 7 ,  
8 will 9 also 10 united  
11 12 in a 13  
14 his." Romans 6:5, NIV

Answer: For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:5, NIV

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