



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

[www.graceumcravena.org](http://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.*

**JUNE 2018**

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

Some of you may have been wondering what I do on days that are listed as DCOM (District Committee on Ordained Ministry) or PLD (Pastoral Leadership Development). DCOM oversees licensed local pastors, certified lay ministers, and others that are serving in our congregations throughout Albany District. We check in with those under our care to make sure that they have the support that they need to serve their congregations well. We also check to make sure that any coursework that should be done has been done. We are also responsible for any candidate that is intending to take the ordained ministry track – to help them be prepared for their interview with BOOM (Board of Ordained Ministry – Conference level) to become provisional members of the annual conference. There are 30-40 people in our care this year.

PLD is counted as continuing education for all clergy. Those clergy that signed up to take the PLD course this year have met for one Tuesday a month to discuss the books we have read and to determine the best way for each of us to use that information in our setting. The session titles were: Our World Has Changed, Aiming Real Leaders at the Mission Field, Personal Leadership, Streamlining Your Church, Focusing Outward, Preaching, and Real Life Evangelism. Some of the ideas found in these session have already found their way into my work here at Grace. I'm hoping to bring more of my learning into

our work together in the months to come. For those that may want to check out what I've been reading these past 8 months, here is the list: *ReCreating the Church – Leadership for the Postmodern Age* by Richard Hamm; *Direct Hit* by Paul Borden; *Shaped by God's Heart* by Milfred Minatrea; *Simple Church* by Thom Rainer & Eric Geiger; *The Externally Focused Church* by Rick Rusaw & Eric Swanson; *Communicating for a Change* by Andy Stanley & Lane Jones; and *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese.

I would love to have as many of you as possible to engage with *Unbinding the Gospel*. This would be a wonderful place to begin our journey together in discovering who we are going to become in the days ahead. I look forward growing in faith together.

Peace for the journey,



Pastor Kim

A brief reminder – If you want Pastor Kim to visit you, either at home or if you are hospitalized, you need to contact either her or the office to let her know. While Pastor Kim has many gifts, mind-reading is not one of them. Notices of someone being hospitalized are noted, but if you want a visit, please ask. Thank you.



## EVANGELISM NEWS

On June 8<sup>th</sup> Sharon, Brian and the Evangelism committee will host another Grace Coffee House event. We invite folks to share all forms of “clean, wholesome” entertainment...skits, storytelling, recite poetry, play an instrument & singing.

In July, we’re planning to host an ice cream social to benefit The Matthew Project. Date to be announced.

### **The Matthew Project**

is a community outreach program designed to assist in meeting the nutritional needs of children in the RCS Community during the months of July and August when “free/reduced” meal plans provided during the school year are not available.

It is the heart of The Matthew Project that every child will have access to at least one nutritious meal each week during the summer months.

If you have a heart for this community outreach program, there are two opportunities to participate.

**BECOME AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER:**

- Foods need to be picked up and stocked
- Lunches need to be prepared and delivered daily.

If interested, please contact Sheri Datri at call (518) 573-1278

**BECOME A FINANCIAL SUPPORTER:**

If you would like to contribute, please make a check payable to: Living Waters Christian Family Fellowship and write "Matthew Project" in the memo.

Mail to:

Living Waters Christian Family Fellowship  
PO Box 117  
Ravena, NY 12143

The Matthew Project is a 501 C-3 corporation; all donations are tax deductible.



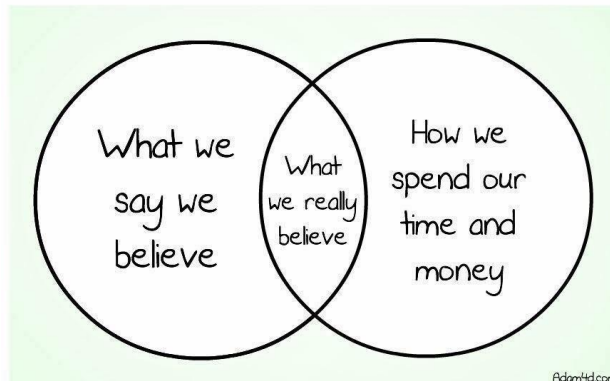
**Why Stewardship?**

If we are to take our faith seriously and begin (or continue) to live into our Christian values and principles, then we need to take stewardship seriously. When God created humans, we were created to be stewards of all creation. All that we have belongs to God, and so we must continue to be good stewards of all that is in our care – time, talent, and treasure. Our Trustees are working hard to be good stewards of the property and buildings we have, but we need

to do our share as well. Helping by lending a hand when we are able, offering wisdom and knowledge when appropriate, and helping to keep the building useful for the ministries that God has called us to.

Some of you have concerns about our current budget – noticing the gap between the actual giving and the amount required by our budget to fulfill our financial responsibilities. There have been some unexpected challenges, as the budget was based on last year's giving. We currently have 58 giving units. If each unit was able to give \$5 more each week, we would have an extra \$15,080 for the year. When we think about it, \$5 is less than many spend on coffee or eating out during the week. Also, please consider sending your offering to the church if you will be away. Please be in prayer about your giving, and consider taking a step of faith and giving a bit more.

58 units	\$5 additional each week	\$15,080 more for the year
58 units	\$10 additional each week	\$30,160 more for the year





## Book Nook Bag O'Books Sale



We have more books than we have room. Any books on the shelves or on the overage sale tables--paperback or hardcover. (Puzzles, DVDs, VCRs, and audio books at regular prices.)

# **Stock Up for Your Summer Reading**

**Be sure to add the Book Nook to  
your Village Garage Sale itinerary**



**Special Saturday Hours June 2 — 9 to 2  
Sale continues Tuesday June 5 — 9 to noon  
& Thursday June 7 — 6 to 8**



2 Erin Haslett  
5 Pam Ginder  
6 Jim & Peggy Sherman  
9 Penelope Harris  
15 Jay & Sue Ruso  
16 Edna Kniffen  
17 Janet & Ron Mantynen  
18 Melanie Maurer  
20 Kristina Mantynen Gish  
22 Beth Spoor  
26 Jeffrey Schoenig

## **CROP WALK –and- FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

We are all too familiar with the issue of hunger in our community and across America. In order to battle this crisis, Church World Service sponsors CROP Hunger walks across the United States. These community-wide events are organized by schools, businesses, and religious organizations, including our own Grace United Methodist Church. Our CROP Walk was held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. We raised nearly \$800 at this event. If you didn't get a chance to donate and still wish to, visit <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/ravenany>.

"The Pantry" at The Church of St. Patrick, directed by Diane Hoffman, has been active for about thirty years. It began in a closet that is now part of the St. Patrick's Thrift Shop as a source of canned food for those in need. Today "The Pantry" has twenty-four volunteers that serve clients three times a week: Tuesday and Friday 10:00AM – 11:00AM, and Wednesday 6:00PM – 7:00PM.

## **"The Pantry" Statistics for 2017:**

- purchased 34,335 pounds of food, which was delivered by Food Express
- Food Shuttle delivered 230 pounds of breads and sweets
- Food Pantries for the Capital District drive/product donations amounted to 3,658 pounds of food
- 1,360 diapers and 118 cans of formula were made available to mothers in need
- Food Pantries for the Capital District donated \$1,689
- FEMA donated \$1,273

No client is ever turned away. Once a month, each client receives twelve meals worth of food. If they are in need of more food that same month, they are given nine more meals. If a person in need is not from our area, they are served and referred to the food pantry in their area. All donations are greatly appreciated.



photo from the Ravena CROP Walk



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

It may have been rainy and miserable outdoors, but we had a lovely time indoors at our Mother's day tea party on Saturday, May 12th. Over 20 ladies attended and enjoyed tea and treats. We also had the pleasure of listening to a flute solo performed by Liana! A special thanks to Anne for loaning us teapots and tea cups from her collection as well as the beautiful fabric we used to disguise the book shelves. Thanks also to Cindy, Hazel and Tracy for their help prepping the food prior to the party and to Sharon for washing all those teacups!





## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS - CONTINUED

### **Children's Day 2018**

Please join us on Sunday, June 10th for our year end celebration of our youth. A pot luck picnic will be held following the service. Burgers and hot dogs provided by the Sunday school. Sign-up sheet in fellowship hall. We look forward to having you join us!

Our final outreach project for the school year is almost at an end. Please help us create Birthday bags for the Food Pantry so that those who are struggling financially can treat their children to a birthday party with all the trimmings. We will be collecting birthday supplies until June 3rd. There is a tub outside the office to collect cake and brownie mixes, frosting tubs and decorating tubes, sprinkles, paper plates, cups and napkins, streamers, balloons, hats or other birthday decorating items and large gift bags to package them in. Don't have time to shop? Monetary donations gratefully accepted as well.

Stay Tuned...Our second annual Amazing Race will be held the last week in July. This was a huge success last year and we are hoping for similar response this year. This event requires numerous adults to man the different stations or drive the youth around town.

If you are willing to help us out, please let Kate Robertson know.



A message from Discipleship Ministries  
The United Methodist Church

### **It's All About Relationship**

Let's take a look at Wesley's General Rules in the Discipleship guide:

1. **Do no harm** by avoiding evil of every kind.
2. **Do good** as often as you can to as many as you can (body & soul).
3. **Practice the means of grace** taught to the disciples by Jesus.

The first two are pretty self-explanatory. Doing no harm and doing good are basic positive traits for humanity.

But what about the *means of grace*? They get more specific. They are divided into works of mercy and works of piety. Outward and inward discipleship. Let's look at the outward.

Those works of mercy that John Wesley taught and encouraged are actions. They require us to get outside. People not of our faith will see these. Regardless of their acceptance of Christianity in general or United Methodism in particular, people can't help but see these as actions that help humanity.

Look at these works and consider how you, your church and your family can make a positive impact on your community.

Feeding the hungry – Can you discover who your community is at risk of hunger and who can join you – or who can you join – to help them? Clothing the naked – Can you supply warm coats or jackets to people whose clothing is inadequate for the weather?

- Caring for the sick – Can you drive people to doctor appointments or provide respite care?
- Visiting those in prison – Can you go and just sit and talk with someone incarcerated, proving they aren't forgotten?
- Sheltering the homeless – Can your church building offer a warm meal and a place to sleep?

- Peacemaking – Can this start with something as simple as walking
- Welcoming the stranger – Can you befriend a lonely newcomer to your town who needs a new friend?

Serving the common good – Can you think of something, just one thing, you can do that will help everyone?

All these works of mercy involve being in a relationship. You can do it. Get out there and show people the works of Jesus.

Coming next time: “Dying is easy, leading is harder.”

Praying for you to be Jesus today,

**Rev. Junius B. Dotson**

General Secretary

Discipleship Ministries

The United Methodist Church



# Beloved children

God our heavenly Father loves us so much that he calls us his.

*Directions: Follow the instructions below. Then read the remaining words, going across the rows from left to right, to complete 2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV.*

- Cross out the opposite of blessings.
- Cross out the opposite of found.
- Cross out the disciple who betrayed Jesus.
- Cross out a word for disobeying God.
- Cross out the opposite of love.
- Cross out an animal.
- Cross out a word for jail.
- Cross out a place.
- Cross out what happened to Jesus.
- Cross out a book of the Bible.
- Cross out the opposite of friends.

I	enemies	will	be	Judas
hate	a	Father	to	serpent
you	and	you	will	crucified
cursings	be	my	sons	and
sin	Golgotha	daughters	says	the
Lamentations	prison	Lord	Almighty	lost

Answer: "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18, 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, including meetings and special events.

## **OR VISIT US ON THE WEB:**

**[www.graceumcravena.org](http://www.graceumcravena.org)**