



*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.*

**December 2018**

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

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As the calendar year begins to come to a close, our church year is just beginning. Advent is the name for the season before Christmas and is the beginning of the Christian Church year. Please consider how you will prepare yourself and your family for Advent, which in turn will prepare us for Christmas, and the celebration of God's greatest gift.

While there will be many activities that can keep us busy during this time of waiting and preparing for Jesus, I encourage you to find activities that help bring you closer to family and friends, feed your spirit, and help out those in need. We will also have some special events/activities at our church.

On **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**, we will have our annual Christmas Cantata – a collaborative effort between Grace UMC and St. Patrick’s RCC. The following **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**, during our regular worship at 10:30 am, the Sunday School and Youth will be taking over the service and help us explore some of the traditions and symbols of Christmas. On **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** there will be a Blue Christmas Service that will give sacred space for those that may be experiencing grief, loss or difficulty during this season. Our **Christmas Eve Service (December 24<sup>th</sup>)** with candle light, will be at 7:00pm.

During this special time, may we continue to be formed and transformed into the disciples that Jesus truly wants us to be.



Peace,  
Pastor Kim

## *Blue Christmas Worship Service*

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue."

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities.

There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm**

This event is open to all.

Please consider inviting a friend, coworker or relative who might find this service especially meaningful.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/blue-christmaslongest-night-worship-with-those-who-mourn>



## **EVANGELISM NEWS**

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we collected enough Thanksgiving food items and gift cards to supply full-course turkey dinners to 6 families in the community! Four dinners went to our Giving Tree families and two dinners dropped off at CHOICES.

We have adopted 6 families for The Giving Tree ministry, a total of 18 children. In past years, this congregation has always provided above and beyond our expectations; we're sure this year will be no exception! You will find special "tags" for gift shopping on the Giving Tree (in front of the lounge). Deadline is December 18<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting Grace Coffee House from 7:00 to 9:00 pm with sign-up at 6:30pm. As usual, many sweet treats and hot beverages will be available at intermission and the theme will be Christmas. So come with your skit, song, story or musical instrument and have FUN! Or, come to be entertained and support them with your applause.



**INSTRUCTIONS**  
**TURKEY FEATHER FOOD DRIVE**

Select a feather from the table for a family member and a food item.

Remove the pencil tags from the back of the feather and retain it as a reminder.

Sign your name on the form corresponds with the family and food item for the feather you selected.

Add the feather you picked to your Turkey Card!

**IMPORTANT:**  
Please do not use gift certificates for food items (e.g., gift cards) as all our selected families may not be able to get by Price O'Garden or other out of stock items.

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
**FOR TURKEY FEATHERS**

Select a feather from a table for a family member.

Remove the pencil tags from the back of the feather and retain it as a reminder.

Sign your name on the form corresponds with the family for the feather you selected.

Add the feather you picked to your Turkey Card!

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## **BARGAIN SHED NEWS**

The Shed closed for the year on November 17. Patrons got to fill a bag for \$3.00 during the last two weeks the shop was open. Proceeds for the year (March to November) totaled \$6,100.

The tentative opening date for Spring 2019 is Saturday, April 6.

**Thank you to all our donors and patrons!!!**

## **BOOK NOOK NEWS**



**As usual, the Book Nook  
will be closed Thursday evenings  
for the winter months.**



and Anniversaries

- 1 Jacob Black
- 2 Reggie Porterfield
- 4 Jim Sherman
- 6 Adrienne Seymour Greene
- 9 Edna Rominger
- 10 Louis Newburg V
- 11 Catherine Bradshaw
- 11 Pdraig McTigue
- 11 Marty Van Wie
- 16 Sarah Bliss
- 18 Druhan Gordon-Stacey
- 19 Jim & Devonna Quinn
- 22 Don Moon
- 22 Rick Robertson
- 23 Ray Bradshaw
- 25 Hailey Maurer
- 28 Audry June
- 31 Al & JoAnne Burrill



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

This year our Children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 16th during the church service. The kids will be learning this year about the meaning of the symbols of Christmas and our program will have lots of singing and be based on that.

Even if you're unable to come to Sunday school in the weeks leading up to the 15th your child is still welcome to participate-just let me know ahead of time.





# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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