



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.

February 2019

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family and Friends,

It's hard to believe that February is almost here. We have survived our first big storm of the season and have been dealing with wild swings in the temperature. Our committees have been very busy looking at the year ahead. Trustees continue to work on the roof and heating issues, as well as making sure our sidewalks and the parsonage are cleared from snow. Evangelism has a schedule for the whole year planned – dates are already on the calendar – and continue to look for ways to spread the Good News. Education continues their programming at both the adult and children/youth levels. Finance will be continuing to work on our budget and making plans for how we will be fulfilling our ministry here at Grace. SPPPRC has revamped the job descriptions and responsibilities for the music director and custodian. Ben April has been brought on as the music director, in addition to his continuing as our accompanist. Interviews for the custodial position have been set and a new hire will be announced soon.

February will be a very busy month. Check the calendar for events and details, but they include a Movie night, preparation for our Spaghetti Dinner, Souper Bowl Sunday, Chili Cook off, several Baptisms, the Spaghetti Dinner, School vacation and the Book Nook sale. Be sure to invite your family and friends to be a part of these activities and fundraisers for the church.

We will also be looking toward working on our covenant to increase discipleship within the church. Some of this can occur through the activities and events listed above, others will come as we discern the areas that we need to work on as a congregation and as individuals. One of the areas that I am working on is learning more about the United Methodist Church and the upcoming Special Session of the General Conference of the UMC to be held in St. Louis toward the end of the month. This special session will be trying to determine how the UMC will function concerning issues over human sexuality. There are several plans that are being considered and I am reading through all of them, reading books about the history of the UMC and how we have reached this point. I will be attending this conference in St. Louis as an observer, which along with the reading will count toward my continuing education requirement.

I will be providing more information about the different plans that are being presented and the ramifications of each plan. While there are many people that are anxious about what the decision may mean for the local church, the one thing that I do know is that we will continue to be The Church, regardless of the outcome. We will continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community and we will continue to work together to put our faith and love into action.



Peace, Pastor Kim



It's time to start making plans for this year's spaghetti dinner...

Let's start with a big "thank you" to Joyce Schoenig for agreeing to oversee the Front of the House (dining area) and to Michelle Wager for overseeing the Kitchen. Our goal, is to accomplish this task by coming together as a Church family. By working together in small groups, we can to make this dinner a success!

We will be looking for volunteers to help on the following days:

Sun. 2/9 1:00 to ? – clean closet for dessert station

Sat. 2/9 11:30 to 4:30 – make & freeze meatballs, sauces

Wed. 2/13 6:00-8:00pm – organize kitchen, carts, set tables & chairs

Fri. 2/15 6:00pm to ? – silverware, salt/pepper, centerpieces, menus

Fri. 2/15 6:30 pm – set up take-out area, dessert station, plate salads etc.

Sat. 2/16 - Servers, Bus persons, Beverage persons, Hostess

Sat. 2/16 – Take out people (2), Plating, Dishwashers

****Remember: You don't have to stay for hours, even 1 hour will help****

The sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall.

Administration Council Meeting – Summary of January 15th meeting:

Topics of meeting, 2018 Church shares are paid and budgeted amounts and although giving were close, but we ended the year in the black! Upgrades to the Kitchen are being discussed. Roof is being continually monitored and thanks to Jeff Pelton progress is being made. Kate is excited regarding the increase in our youth participation and would welcome any ideas regarding activities to keep them occupied. We will soon be collecting items for brown bag lunches. Evangelism committee will contact friendship singers to possibly perform on friendship Sunday and will be announcing another chili cook off. Calendar has been updated for 2019. Thank You all for participating and your hard work.



Souper Bowl of Caring helps youth groups across America develop a stronger connection to their communities by caring for people in need. This national movement has been responsible for transforming Super Bowl weekend into the largest celebration of giving & serving the hungry in the nation.

Barbara Coryell will be organizing our annual Souper Bowl luncheon as always. Folks are invited to bring a canned soup donation, a cash donation or SOUP in a crockpot! You may also bring crackers, bread or rolls.

Please see the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall.



BOOK NOOK NEWS - A big **THANKS** to everyone who helped at the Book Nook during 2018. We finished the year with slightly more than \$12,160 in sales. The Book Nook can use your help again to get 2019 off to a good start with our Winter Book Sale.

HUGE
Book
Sale & Mini-Rummage

Who: You
What: Bargains on tens of thousands of books
When: Thurs. Feb. 21 and Fri. Feb. 22, 9-3 and 6-8 pm; Sat. Feb. 23, 9-3
Where: Book Nook at Grace United Methodist Church (Ravena, NY)
Why: For your enjoyment and to promote literacy & fellowship

HUGE BOOK SALE - Right off, we need help putting signs up at local businesses and facilities. A signup list with our usual places will be on the table at coffee hour after service. If you see someplace you regularly go to, please sign up for it and take a sign.

We will also need people to help with setup Feb. 17 through 20 and take down the last day of the sale and the week following. During the sale, we need general help and cashiers. Signup sheets for cashier times will be out soon.

And, of course, we need people to shop during the sale. So tell your friends, neighbors, and relatives.

SUNDAY, FEB. 10TH
OUR ANNUAL CHILLI COOK-OFF

Chili sampling & voting, during fellowship time

Please bring your favorite CHILLI and a good appetite!

EVANGELISM NEWS

At January's meeting, we developed our events calendar for the upcoming year. Most events & ministries will be a continuation of what we've done in past years (with one or two exceptions).

We have decided to try something new for Friendship Sunday in May 2019. Keep posted to the newsletter and bulletins for details.

We are also planning to borrow a successful program from another UMC which is called "Change the World Sunday". The main purpose of this program is community service. For details, stay tuned to The Messenger!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 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

Did you know...

Saint Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the Emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. According to legend, the priest always signed his letters "Your Valentine."

Two centuries later, the Pope declared February 14th St. Valentine's Day. Later, Christians followed suit. By the mid-1700's, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14th in his honor.

Lighten your load

Keeping Sabbath, not just on Sundays but throughout the entire week in an integrated way, keeps us sane, says Donna Schaper. While our culture pushes us to move faster, work harder and acquire more money and stuff, Sabbath observances promote play, rest, love and worship.

“Sabbath — time for God — is a gift in its origin and in its keeping,” Schaper writes in *Sabbath Keeping* (Cowley Publications). “It is not another must; it is a “may”. God invites us to keep Sabbath; God does not demand it.”

The commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy, she notes, “is an invitation to a party, not to a hanging. Sabbath keeping is not one more thing to add to our already long lists. [It] is lightness, not heaviness.”



* * *

“Love is like a tennis match; you’ll never win consistently until you learn to serve well.”

—Dan P. Herod

“In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold onto in this world is each other.”

—Linda Ellerbee

* * *

Knowing what must be done, does away with fear.”

—Rosa Parks

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16 HILLCREST DR, RAVENA, NY 12143



February 16, 2019

Free Will Spaghetti Dinner

TAKE OUTS – 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS
SPAGHETTI WITH VERY VEGGIE SAUCE
GLUTEN FREE SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS
SALAD (ITALIAN DRESSING)
ROLL/BUTTER
BROWNIE

EAT IN – 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS
SPAGHETTI WITH VERY VEGGIE SAUCE
GLUTEN FREE SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS
SALAD (ITALIAN OR RANCH DRESSING)
ROLL/BUTTER
HOT FUDGE BROWNIE SUNDAE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (518) 756-6688.

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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.

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