



The Messenger

Grace United Methodist
Church

16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143

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Rev. Kim Krause, Pastor

Working together to put our faith and love into practice.

**Services are held at 9:30am - Parking Lot Grace FM-89.7,
Temporary Sanctuary & Facebook**

AUGUST 2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

We have a lot of work to do, and we know that many hands make the work lighter – and more fun! We are working on the back lot (off the parking lot) to get it ready for a community garden (to begin next year) and a prayer area (maybe even a labyrinth). We need your ideas and your assistance. This area has not been tended to for a long time (other than being mowed), There are piles of wood and pallets that need to be moved – and pallets taken apart. Perhaps these can be used for a big bonfire soon as part of a celebration, inviting the community in to share in our hopes for the future. We need a path from the parking area by the dumpsters into the back area, which would require a small foot bridge to be constructed over the drainage area. There are places where shrubs need to be cut back and downed limbs that need to be cleared away in preparation for being able to utilize this space for “Feeding bodies and feeding souls.” Anyone interested in being lead (or co-lead) for either the community garden or prayers area, please let us know.

Inside the church, we continue to pare down our belongings, selling items or finding homes for those things that we will not need. There are churches that need pew bibles and some of our extra hymnals. We still need to find homes for the choir robes. Items from the nursery and Sunday School materials are also available. We have had a small group of people working to find places to sell or find homes for these items, so if you know of anyone looking for anything, please let us know.

We just completed the two sermon series to help us focus on what it means for Grace to be a disciple in our community so that we can create an intentional faith discipleship program. Our series on John Wesley's Three Simple Rules (Do no harm, Do all the good you can, Stay in Love with God) and Bishop Schnase's *Five Fruitful Practices* (Radical Hospitality, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, Passionate Worship and Extravagant Generosity) have given us much to think about as we work to find our focus here at Grace. Even if you haven't been in worship, the leadership team would like to hear from you about what you feel is most important and what you would like to have offered as you grow in your own faith.

There are many opportunities to lend a helping hand, offer suggestions and opinions, and to join in on the planning for our future! Please take advantage of this opportunity to help shape Grace and its impact in our community. During this time of excitement and angst, let us continue to work together to put our faith and love into practice and action!

Peace for the journey,
Pastor Kim



Help Us Move Forward RCS Community Needs Assessment

 <p>GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RAVENA</p>	<p>RCS Community Needs Survey</p> <p>Tell us your needs. We want to help you.</p> <p>Return to Grace UMC/Book Nook/ Bargain Shed 16 Hillcrest Drive, Ravenna</p>
 <p>Take the survey online</p>	<p>Or pick up a copy at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grace UMC/Book Nook/Bargain Shed • Check Back for More Locations 

As Grace UMC looks to the future, we'd like your help. The Leadership Council has developed a Community Needs Assessment survey for area residents. The assessment will be used to assist the church in better meeting local needs. Please take a minute to fill one out. You can complete it online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C2YR338> or pick up a paper copy at our 9:30 Sunday service or the Book Nook/Bargain Shed when they're open Tuesdays and Saturdays, 9 to Noon.

GOFUNDME CAMPAIGN

 <p>GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RAVENA</p>	<p>\$52,000</p>  <p>Our Goal To Pay Off Roof Loan and Moving Expenses</p>
<p>gofundme CHARITY</p> <p><u>Donate Online,</u> at the Book Nook/Bargain Shed, or by mail 16 Hillcrest Drive, Ravenna 12143</p>	<p>No Donation is Too Small</p> <p><i>Thank you</i> </p> <p>And Bless You</p>

You all have some connection to or interest in Grace UMC, or you wouldn't be receiving this newsletter. We'd love you to remember that connection and fond memories and see if you have it in your heart to contribute to the church's GoFundMe campaign to pay off our old loan for defective roof repairs and moving expenses. We won't have discretionary power to use the proceeds from selling the church building.

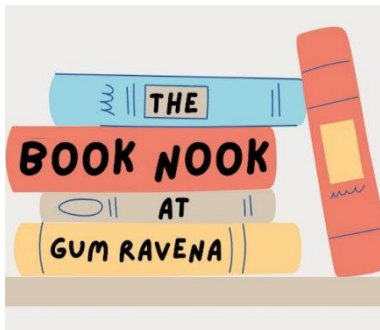
(The Methodist Conference will). So, we're asking you to help us raise these funds so that we can move forward offering services and programs needed in our community while we share Jesus's word and love.

You can donate online at: <https://gofund.me/1b303812>, mail donations to the church, or drop them off at our 9:30 Sunday Service or at the Book Nook/Bargain Shed. Be sure to indicate that are for the GoFundMe Campaign.

GRACE WILL BE AT THE FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL AUG. 24

And we need volunteers to hand out free water and children's books 1-6 pm (probably). Let us know at our Sunday Service or the Book Nook or by leaving a message at 518-756-6688 and someone will get back to you.

We'll also be handing out our RCS Community Needs Assessment and information about our GoFundMe Campaign and collecting returnable bottles and cans for the campaign.



The Book Nook is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 am – Noon. Thanks to everyone who help us further our education mission.

We have AC! Open 9 to Noon Tuesdays and Saturdays. Be sure to stop in and shop our deep discount room, where you can buy up to eight books for \$1--hard cover and paperback, novels and nonfiction.

And don't miss our drop in Friends Around the Table on Tuesdays. Good conversation *and* free snacks.



BARGAIN SHED

The Bargain Shed is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am-Noon. Bargains Galore!!! We have AC!!!



9 Ken Bliss
9 Elizabeth Robertson
9 Brian Phillips
10 Brian & Sharon Phillips
11 Marlene McTigue

12 Barb Bullock
14 Ralph & Edna Rominger
18 John Ginder
24 Gabriella Selbe
25 Devin Whitney



GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC



What helps you sort out what you're feeling, or experience an emotion more deeply? What allows you to let loose and cry, or fully celebrate when you're joyful? Nature helps some of us get in touch with our feelings, perhaps because it removes us from screens and other distractions.

But when getting out isn't possible — no mountain lake is nearby, or the weather isn't tranquil — consider the gift of music. Often instrumental or vocal music helps us access the depths of our soul like nothing else can. God may even speak to us through music — whether in song lyrics, our own inner thoughts or wordless stirrings of the heart.

Albert Schweitzer, a pastor, musicologist, physician and more, said, "Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter — to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way, as if we were sitting by a mountain lake and contemplating hills and woods and clouds in the tranquil and fathomless water."

Make some playlists for various emotions: joy, grief, anxiety, hope. Then imagine yourself relaxing in nature, and experience God's love.

SABBATH SIGHT

Miners used to use mules underground to pull the loaded carts. Spending so much time in the darkness, some mules eventually went blind. But one old miner found a solution: He simply let the mules spend one day a week outside the mines.

In a very real sense, God gave us the Sabbath to keep us from going spiritually blind. The Sabbath, as Jesus said, was made for humankind, but to use in sacred ways. It's our responsibility as followers of Jesus to decide how to best keep the intent of this commandment. How might observing Sabbath improve your ability to "see" clearly?

—from *The Wired Word*

THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

Oklahoma pastor Ricky Jones tackles the meaning of church membership, or being part of Christ's body. "Leaving the church is not simply leaving a club," he writes at the Gospel Coalition website. "When you walk away, you dismember yourself from the body. Jesus and the rest of the body sorely miss you, and bleed after your departure. You cut yourself off from your only source of life and nourishment. Like an amputated hand, you will slowly bleed out, wither, and die."

Jones contends that "being a part of the universal church without submitting to a local church is not possible, biblical or healthy." It's impossible because you need to be part of a smaller community before you can be considered part of a greater community. It's unbiblical because the New Testament epistles are addressed to specific local churches. And it's unhealthy because wanting to independently make your own choices is "at the heart of sin," the pastor writes.

"You need to know we're all in this life together, and we won't walk away from you just because you let us down or we disagree," says Jones. "Together we build each other up into the image of Christ; no one can make it alone."

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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 at: www.gumcravena.com