



## *The Messenger*

Grace United Methodist  
Church

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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**

***Reminder: Set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8.***

***March 2026***

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

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

We are now well into the season of Lent, a time of reflection and finding time to spend with God as we seek to deepen our faith and our own discipleship. This season we are trying something different during worship - having opportunities for silence, as well as times of simple background music, to allow for time of quiet reflection and listening for God's still small voice. That voice continues to call us beloved; the one that calls us into a closer relationship with God and one another. The voice which calls us to become who we are truly meant to be. I recognize this contemplative style is new to some and may feel awkward at first. I ask that you give it a chance.

I'm sure that the silence or time of meditative music seems long for some, especially if this is new. The silence is 35 seconds to a minute, and the music we use for connecting with God is just over 4 minutes. It may feel like an eternity, or the blink of an eye. I pray you will find your comfort increasing during these times of sitting and being and find yourself reflecting on your spiritual life and your connection with God.

March 1 – Lent 2 - Finding Your Breath: Listening to our Bodies  
March 8 – Lent 3 - Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts  
March 15 – Lent 4 - Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing  
March 22 – Lent 5 - Finding Your Mystic: Listening Beyond the Voices  
March 29 – Lent 6 - Finding Your Purpose: Listening to Your Heart  
(This is also Palm Sunday)

"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves... What is it that stands between us and God? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation." — Catherine Doherty

"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." — Pope Francis

During this time of Lent, a time of reflection, may we seek God's will in our lives and the life of the congregation. "O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen." — Henri Nouwen. May we continue to work together to put our faith and love into practice.

Peace for the Journey,  
Pastor Kim

April 2<sup>nd</sup> is Maundy Thursday and April 3<sup>rd</sup> is Good Friday. We will do a combined Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Time TBD, depending on whether Grace UMC would like to include a meal together as part of this Holy Week observance.

*Christianity is a lifestyle - a way of being in the world that is simple, non-violent, shared, and loving. However, we made it into an established "religion" (and all that goes with that) and avoided the lifestyle change itself. One could be warlike, greedy, racist, selfish, and vain in most of Christian history, and still believe that Jesus is one's "personal Lord and Savior" . . . The world has no time for such silliness anymore. The suffering on Earth is too great.*

Richard Rohr

Parker Palmer once observed, *"The faith journey is less about making a big leap of faith than it is about putting one faithless foot in front of the other, and doing it again and again. What happens as you walk that way is sometimes transformed by grace."*



### *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

6 Fran Lobdell  
18 Steve Shook  
20 Erick Mattick  
20 Bill Lyons

20 David Segrue  
21 Ray & Jan Bradshaw  
27 Joseph Bliss

### ***Some of the special days celebrated in March are:***

- World Day of Prayer — March 6, 2026
- Daylight-Saving Time begins — March 8, 2026
- St. Patrick's Day — March 17, 2026
- First Day of Spring — March 20, 2026
- Palm Sunday — March 29, 2026
- Book Nook Sale through March 14!
- Book Nook and Bargain Shed open 9-Noon on Tuesdays and Saturdays

## **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8. As we “spring forward,” let’s also renew our hearts in faith and gratitude for God’s steadfast light that never fades.



## **NEWS FROM THE BOOK NOOK**



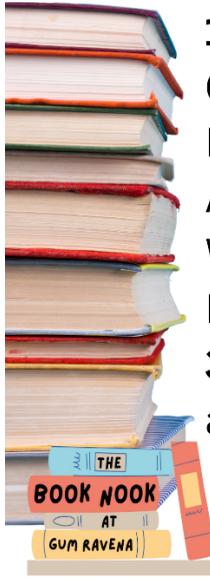
The Book Nook is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 am – Noon. Thanks to everyone

who help us further our education mission.

***Friends Around the Table will begin again on Tuesday, March 3.***

# Winter Clearance Sale thru 3/14

Tuesdays & Saturdays ~ 9 to Noon



**10/\$1** ~ Kids Books

**6/\$1** ~ Cookbooks,

Religion, Pets &

Animals, Health &

Wellness, and

Paperback Romance

**3/\$1** ~ All Other Books

and DVDs & CDs

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## **BARGAIN SHED NEWS**

PLEASE REMEMBER: we do not accept TV's, computers or exercise equipment. Only small furniture pieces can be accommodated (please inquire first before bringing). And, most important, please do not leave donations outside. The weather has ruined many really nice items. We're not planning to close this winter except when there is bad weather. Please check out our Facebook Page at Bargain Shed at Grace United Methodist Church. Or, if you have an email address, please let us know and we'll put you on our email list to let you know of closings or special items.

## **IF GOD HAD VOICEMAIL**

Have you ever wondered what would happen if God used voicemail to handle all our prayers? Let's imagine it for a moment.

I had just finished gossiping and wanted to confess, so I got ready to pray—or rather, to “call.” Immediately, a voice answered:

“You’ve reached the throne room of Heaven, the Prayer Department. All of our representatives are currently assisting other callers. Your call is important to us, and we want to help you. Please stay on the line, and your request will be answered in the order it was received.”

About then I decided to hang up and keep on gossiping. But then I remembered what the Bible says about God and how he attends to our needs. He doesn't route our prayers through a heavenly call center or put us on hold. We don't get busy signals, menus or automated voices.

Instead, our Father listens instantly, personally, and lovingly. Instead of a voice mail system, he says, “Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:24, KJV)

## **A TASTE OF LOVING-KINDNESS**

A Sunday school teacher once asked her class, “What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving-kindness?”

A young boy thought for a moment and replied, “Well, if I were hungry and someone gave me a piece of bread with butter on it, that would be kindness. But if they added a spoonful of jam, that would be loving-kindness.”

## **FAITH THAT BLOOMS ANEW**



“Why are you anxious?” asked our Lord. Then He said, “*Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*” (Matthew 6:28–29, NIV) Jesus’ words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his

people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives. People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter’s gray. God’s reliability is woven into creation itself. As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:

*God does not send strange flowers every year,  
When the Spring wind blows o’er the pleasant places,  
The same dear things lift up the same fair faces,  
The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.

## **From the Desk of Bishop Burgos: A Call to Prayer this Lent**

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

During the holy season of Lent, I give thanks for each of you and invite you to renew your commitment to personal and communal prayer. In a time marked by deep division, anxiety, and unrest in our nation and communities, it can be tempting to treat prayer as secondary. Yet Lent calls us back to what is essential. Prayer is not an accessory to discipleship; it is the heartbeat of the Christian life. Outside of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing....

Prayer is how God reshapes us. Prayer is how we remain rooted in hope. Prayer is how we are formed into leaders and congregations who embody Christ’s healing and liberating love.

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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.

**OR VISIT US ON THE WEB: [www.gumcravena.com](http://www.gumcravena.com)**