



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, Zoom & Facebook**

MAY 2023

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

We are at an interesting and difficult time in the life of our church. The congregation voted to sell the church building and most of the land, with the exception of the parsonage and the land behind the parsonage. There are two more steps that must be completed prior to an actual sale – the proposal must be approved by the Albany District Building and Locations Committee and the Cabinet (Bishop, all District Superintendents, and a few others). The congregation has also been asked to complete some work on the viability of the congregation. A small group has already been hard at work on this document. If you are interested in assisting in this work, please contact the office and we will make sure that you can be a part of this important step. We will also be sending out the

response when it is completed so that everyone has a chance to give feedback.

The trustees were empowered through an Ad Council meeting to meet with a real estate agent and to sign with her. The listing has been out there for a couple weeks now, and there have been a few showings. The real estate agent is aware of the process we must go through in order for the sale to happen, but it was determined to put the listing out now, rather than wait for the UMC process to be fulfilled before listing the building for sale. We also have some folks looking for space to rent, keeping in mind that Grace feels it is imperative to keep the Book Nook and Bargain Shed.

This is a lot to take in. It is a lot to process. It may feel like everything is moving quickly, but I want to make sure that no one is left out of the process and that our feelings and grief about leaving this location are given time and space. While I have some ideas, I would like to hear from you! What would be helpful as we close this chapter of Grace UMC and begin a new one in a new location? A time of remembrance? A celebration of what has been? A bit of both? What would be helpful to you as we move forward?

One of the things that I have been intentional about is finding ways to incorporate what we are going through with our faith and worship. This new series that we began right after Easter is the next step from the "seeking" series we did during lent. We look to emerging into something new – looking to scripture and the stories that can help lead us forward, while dealing with all the emotions that go with this huge change. We start by recognizing that this place can feel cold and dark, but just like wombs, tombs and cocoons, God does some wonderful work in the dark and it becomes a place of new life, new starts, and new possibilities. And as a new being, a new creation, we cannot go back to the way things were. And while we do not know exactly what will be, we have faith that God is with us and hope for wonderful things on the horizon.

Even if you haven't been a part of worship – consider using the journal for the series to help you notice where you are, where your feelings are, and where you see God in the midst.

The journal section for each week is being sent out with the weekly bulletin and zoom link, but is also being printed and available on Sunday mornings.

In this Easter season, we are reminded that God always has the last word, that God can bring new life when it seems like there is only death, and God does some awesome work in the dark. Let us continue to cling to our faith, continue to care for one another, and continue to work together to put our faith and love into action.

*Peace for the journey,
Pastor Kim*

Special Worship service – Sunday, June 4th

We're planning a hymn-sing worship service and want your input!!! What are your favorite hymns (maybe keep it to top 3)? Let us know how these hymns touch your heart and life, why they're your favorite, or what they mean to you. You can either write them and bring them in or send via e-mail. Please do so by May 22nd, so that the music team has time to practice and have everything we need for the 4th! Looking forward to singing Grace's favorite hymns.





3 James Quinn
 4 Brandon Malloy
 6 Rilley Kellam
 13 Chelsea Youmans
 17 Maddie McTigue
 19 Cassandra Conteras

20 Ginny Frazee
 21 Pastor Kim
 22 Al Burrill
 23 Kate Robertson
 31 Sadie Lambert

SPECIAL DATES IN MAY

- National Day of Prayer, *May 4, 2023*
- Mother’s Day, *May 14, 2023*
- Ascension Sunday, *May 21, 2023*
- Pentecost, *May 28, 2023*
- Memorial Day, *May 29, 2023*

CROP HUNGER WALK
 ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



The Ravenna CROP Walk will be held Sunday, May 7, at 1:00 pm.

The Walk will begin at Mosher Park in Ravenna. We will stop at St. Patrick’s Food Pantry to learn about its work.

Then we will visit the Senior Projects to discover how this program helps seniors. After that, we will stop at the Congregational Church to find out about other food providing ministries such as the Venture Program, Helping Hands, the Brown Bag-It Project and others. We’re hoping to raise \$5,000 this year. ***That’s why we need you to sign up today:*** www.crophungerwalk.org/ravenany

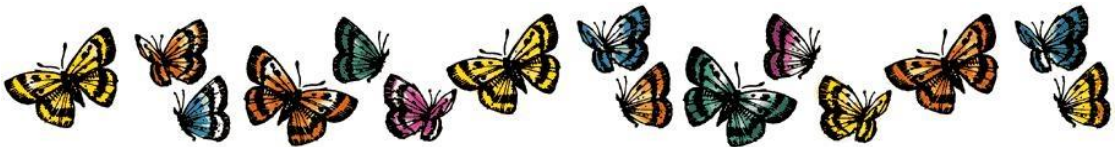
PREPARE TO BE EMPOWERED



Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."



Heavenly
Humor

God is talking to one of his angels. He says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have created 24 hours of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?" The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?" God answers, "I think I'll call it a day."

BARGAIN SHED NEWS

Our semi-annual clothing sale is Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20 from 9am-3pm. All clothing is half price. Tell you friends!

Thank you all for stopping in this Easter season. Shop hours are Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to noon. If you have donations they can be brought by whenever the shop is open or you can call the church office and make arrangements for drop off.

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.

If you're interested in working in the shop, please see Fran Lobdell or Edna or call and leave a message (518) 756-6688.

THE BEST BOOK DEALS AROUND



Get ready for our semi-annual Book Sale Friday May 19 Saturday May 20 from 9 am to 3 pm. You

have plenty of time to tell your friends, make your shopping list, and box or bag your book donations to drop off Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 to Noon. We'll be taking donations for the sale through May 9.

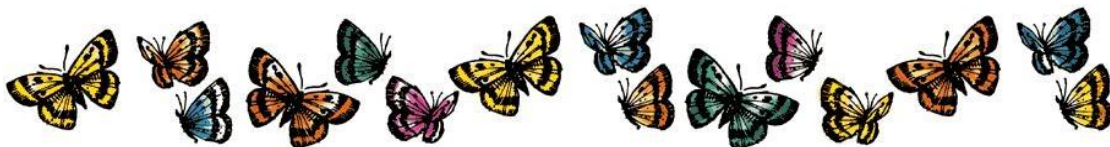
What do we need most? Novels published within the last ten years (the newer, the better), children's books of all kinds, any large print books, and puzzles. Note that we do not take encyclopedias or textbooks; health, computer, and investing books more than a couple years old; books with mold, mildew, water damage, or broken spines; books missing covers or pages; books with writing or highlighting on pages.

HONOR YOUR MOTHER

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom’s favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother’s Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they “symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying.”



"God has not called you to your life mission in spite of who you are; he has called you precisely because of who you are."

—Reggie McNeal, Practicing Greatness

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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.gumcravena.com