



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**

JULY 2024

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

After learning that the Cabinet had decided to close us down and the alternative of "taking a break/pause" and then a restart (which would have meant not having any assets), our meeting with the District Superintendent became quite passionate. I feel this was the turning point for the DS and the Cabinet – to know that there was still life in this congregation and desire to fulfill God's calling for our congregation in a new way. After 48 hours, we received word that the Cabinet had changed their mind, and we have permission to continue with our plan to sell most of the land and church building to be able to move down to Main Street and be a palpable presence in the community. After having been in a holding pattern for so long, and only being able to begin certain parts of our plan, we can

now begin to implement the rest of our vision – which just needs to overcome the inertia that came with waiting and waiting.

We just completed the first series on John Wesley's Three Simple Rules – Do no harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God. This is to help us come up with what we see as the most important aspects of being a disciple so that we can make sure that our programs and outreach line-up with these ideals. We begin our second series this last week of June and it will continue through July. It is *Five Fruitful Practices* by Robert Schnase. The five topics are: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. Each week we will explore these topics and find what resonates most with us. After this, we will create our own intentional discipleship plan.

There is much work to be done and we welcome anyone that has a desire to assist in all that we need to accomplish. We continue to try to find new homes for various items in our buildings that we will not need in our new space. Brian Phillips has been heading up much of this, but anyone wanting to work on this is encouraged to join. We can begin working on plans for the land behind the parsonage – a community garden and a prayer area (may even a labyrinth) – to feed bodies and souls.

And while there is much work to be done, we would be remiss if we did not take some time to celebrate and get out into the community. Perhaps Sunday worship in the park or a community picnic up on Hillcrest (either over the summer or in September – or maybe both!) We still want to plan a service of celebration (and lament) before we leave our current space and find our new home in the village. What other activities would you like to see as we shift from our home base on the hill to one in the village? What would be helpful as you process your feelings?

As we look forward to what God is calling us to next, let us continue to work together to put our faith and love into practice.

Peace for the Journey,
Pastor Kim

During our series on Wesley's 3 simple rules – we looked at the first rule – Do no harm – and realized how difficult it was to truly follow. One area that came up is how little we have that is recycled, often because we do not know what to do with items. One idea is to find a few people that would be willing to create a list of places that accept items and either give them new homes or found ways to recycle (preferably locally). If you are interested in finding ways to reduce garbage and to recycle, please let the office know and we will assist you in finding like-minded people. You need not be a member of the church to be involved in this activity.



And in the great contest between good and evil, Christian hope declares God as winner. ... Christ is the hope not only in the world to come; he is the hope of the world right now.

—Oswald Bronson

OUR PRESENT HOPE



Christian hope involves more than a sunny, cheerful attitude. It is more than a general kind of optimism. It is more than hope in hope, or faith in faith. Christian hope is tied to the goal of history and the purpose of each person's existence. It is the unshakeable confidence of the sovereignty of God and God's eventual triumph over all the forces that stand against truth, righteousness, faithfulness, love and mercy.

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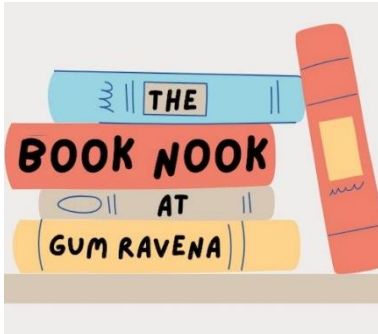


2 Paisley Pelton
3 Quaniesha Porterfield
5 Alan Baumback
5 Wanda Whitney
7 Christine Frazee
10 Mark Gordon
12 Lidia Ruso
13 Jan Bradshaw

14 Ken & Cindy Bliss
14 John & Pam Ginder
14 June Baumback
16 Matthew Ginder
22 Mike Mattick
25 Leland Case
29 Adam & Donna Newton

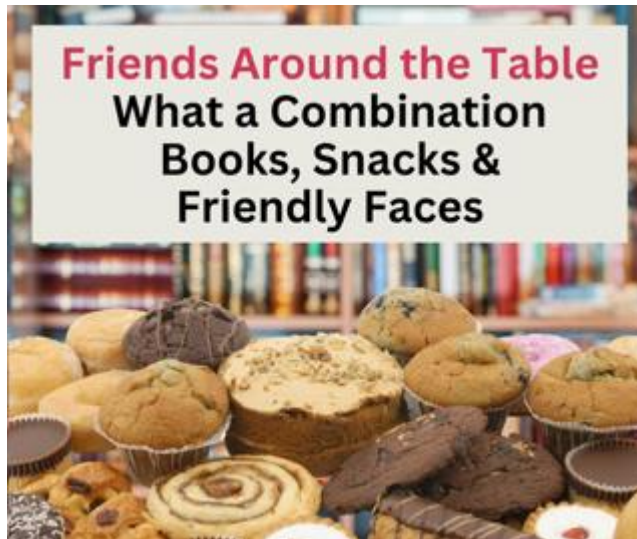
Some of the special days celebrated in July are:

- Independence Day — July 4, 2024



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!!!

WORSHIP IN WONDER

Worship is a faith-building, faith-sustaining act. It's also a form of service to God. Remember to worship regularly during the summer, even when you're out of town.

- "Worship is like corrective lenses for our souls, bringing God clearer into view. That's important for all of us, especially when life goes off the rails."

—Louie Giglio

- "Worship is transcendent wonder. Wonder for which there is now no limit or measure."

—Thomas Carlyle



On one day Jesus fed a crowd with a few loaves and fish, then calmed both a storm and his disciples (John 6:1-21). He is also with you always — whatever your needs and cares.

A DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE

“Dependence does not destroy human personality,” writes Donald F. Baillie. Instead, people are “never so fully and so truly personal as when [they are] living in complete dependence upon God.” Jesus modeled this type of living by depending completely on his heavenly Father.

In that light, let it be declared and hereby celebrated ...

- That all people everywhere depend on one another.
- That everyone needs everyone else for freedom, life, love and happiness.
- That all things in the natural order depend on everything else.
- That the Earth and all planets and stars are mutually dependent.
- That this universally shared dependence comes from God and is of God.
- And that each individual part of this relationship has its own role in fulfilling God’s plan.
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THE CORE OF OUR FAITH

When a person becomes a Christian, he takes out a life-insurance policy. But it is not a policy designed to insure one’s own safety and blessings in heaven, but one to help those we love here on Earth. The basic motive of Christian living is not to insure ourselves against the fires of hell or to secure for ourselves the blessings of heaven. The primary motive is love — love for God and love for neighbor.

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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