



## *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**

***SEPTEMBER 2024***

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

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

The days are warm, and the nights are getting cooler – sure signs of the end of summer and the entry into fall. College students are already back to classes, and new freshman have been settled in by family. K-12 students will be returning to school soon, which means that their teachers have already begun the work to welcome students for another year of learning and growing.

While all these changes are going on, Grace has continued to be in mission and ministry to and with our community, providing weekly worship, trying out a new ministry of music and stories, and continuing work in the Book Nook and Bargain Shed. We look forward to opportunities to utilize the land behind the parsonage (north of the parking lot) for a community garden and a prayer area. Volunteers are encouraged to step up and help in whatever way you feel called.

We are hoping there might be a scout or troop that may want to lend a hand in getting the land ready for these hopes and dreams to come to fruition.

Our worship for this month will be based on the lectionary (the designated readings that are listed in a 3-year cycle). However, while we typically focus on the Gospel or other New Testament readings, we will be focusing on the Old Testament (or Hebrew Bible) readings. These 5 weeks will include readings from Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Ester. These books are part of what is called Wisdom Literature. The series is called Uncommon Wisdom and was suggested by UMC Discipleship. The genre of Wisdom Literature is "generally more poetic and reflective than the history and moral instruction we find in most of the Hebrew scriptures. It doesn't have a singular theological agenda, but its general goal seems to be an invitation to humanity to use all that God has given us as tools to contemplate God's nature, goodness, and desire for the world. Other pieces of Old Testament literature that fall in this classification include Job, Ecclesiastes, many of the Psalms, and some of the apocryphal books." (UMCDiscipleship.org). This will be a new opportunity for all of us, including me, to explore this part of the lectionary readings.

After this lectionary series is completed, we can continue on with lectionary readings (either returning to the New Testament or exploring more of the Hebrew scriptures), or try a new series. There are two others that I have been looking into. The **first** is called ***Do Unto Others***, which is based on a grassroots movement launched by Resurrection, a United Methodist Church in the Kansas City area, to encourage people to be intentional about treating one another with kindness, overcoming the polarization in our country through civility and respect. ([Kindness - Resurrection Church](#)). Each week will focus on one aspect of DO UNTO OTHERS: Kindness, Respect, love, humility and compassion. The **2<sup>nd</sup>** possible series would be ***The Bible Doesn't Say That***.

This series would look at different sayings that the public assumes are in the Bible, but really aren't – such as *Money is the root of all evil* or *God Helps Those Who Help Themselves*. Feel free to ask questions and give input. Worship belongs to all of us.

I look forward to our continued learning together – through activities, trying new ways of reaching the community, studies and worship so that we can continue to put our faith and love into action and practice.

Peace for the Journey,  
Pastor Kim

A special note of thanks

I am thankful for all the work that went on while I was out on medical leave after my fall from the back deck. Knowing that we have people that will continue whatever work, including worship, needs to be done means that the leadership here feels comfortable in doing the work that we are all called to do. A special thank you to Fran for getting Molly even before I left in the ambulance (and keeping her for more than a week), to Ken and Phyllis for taking over leading worship and preaching, to Sharon for taking care of all the music, and Steve and Brian for fixing the railing on the deck. I am grateful for all the notes, emails, texts, calls, and especially prayers during this time.





6 Ron Mantynen  
8 Mark & Jean Gordon  
10 Kallian Morse  
13 Steve & Phyllis Shook  
14 Ashley Miller  
17 Rhylee Harris

18 Colin & Marlene McTigue  
21 Rebecca Shook  
21 Liana Frauenberger  
27 Jean Gordon  
30 John Mantynen

- Special Days in September: Labor Day — September 2, 2024
- National Grandparents Day — September 8, 2024
- Patriot Day — September 11, 2024
- First day of Autumn — September 22, 2024

**Help Us Move Forward**

**RCS Community Needs Assessment**


 <p><b>GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RAVENA</b></p>	<p><b>RCS Community Needs Survey</b></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><b>Or pick up a copy at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grace UMC/Book Nook/Bargain Shed</li><li>• Check Back for More Locations</li></ul> 

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><b>Our Goal To Pay Off Roof Loan and Moving Expenses</b></p>
<p><b>gofundme</b> CHARITY</p> <p><u>Donate Online,</u> at the Book Nook/Bargain Shed, or by mail 16 Hillcrest Drive, Ravena 12143</p>	<p><b>No Donation is Too Small</b></p> <p><i>Thank you</i> </p> <p><b>And Bless You</b></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

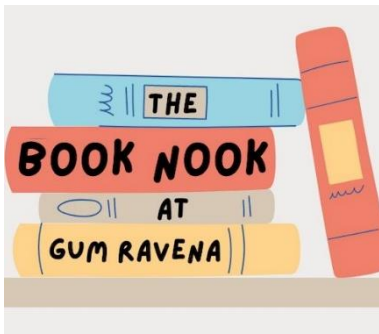
Methodist Conference will). So, we're asking you to help us raise these funds so that we can move forward offering services and programs needed in our community while we share Jesus's word and love.

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.

## **BARGAIN SHED**



The Bargain Shed is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am-Noon. Bargains Galore!!! The Bag Sale is still on! \$5.00/bag. We have AC!!!



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.

## **STORIES AND SONGS**

We're working at setting a regular Monthly Saturday date for Stories and Songs, but for September, it will be on the 14th. Features Music in Motion with Miss Sharon, Stories read by Papa Mark, Crafts with Miss Jean and Snacks for energy. All FREE. Ages 1-10. Check the Book Nook Facebook and Instagram for October date.



### **ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE**

We are scheduled to have our "group" church conference with several other churches on Saturday, Oct. 12, 9 AM, at North Chatham UMC. This is Columbus Day weekend as well as being on a Saturday during our Book Nook and Bargain Shed time. If you are able to attend, or if you are able to cover the Book Nook or Bargain Shed, please email us at [graceumcravea@statetel.com](mailto:graceumcravea@statetel.com).



**DISTRICT DAY is Saturday, Sept. 28**  
**at Saratoga Springs UMC**



**Deadline to Register is September 17. Register now!**

There are 17 workshops, and 12 facilitators lined up so far, hoping for a couple more to come. For full descriptions of the workshops and a registration form email [graceumcravena@statetel.com](mailto:graceumcravena@statetel.com) – **indicating District Day.**

**Here is the current list of workshops:** Stewardship; Local Church Finance; Simplifying Your Church Leadership Structure; Christian Yoga; Soul Collage; Dying, Death and Grief; Mission Insite; Prayer Beads; Guided Meditation; Accountable Discipleship; Covenant Discipleship Groups; Lay Servant Ministry; Missional Excellence; Opportunities for Youth Ministry; Harmony from Division; Collaborative Ministry; Vital Small Church Ministry.

**THE GIFT OF WORK**

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

“This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God’s way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness.”

“Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and he gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures.”



## **NEW RESOURCE FROM MISSIONAL EXCELLENCE: HEALTHY CHURCH ACADEMY**



United Methodists of Upper New York have been investing time, energy, other resources in growing the wellness of our leaders, clergy and laity. Until now much of the focus has been on walking with clergy so that together

we can grow in our wellness. It takes healthy clergy to lead churches to a healthy place.

We also know it takes a partnership between clergy and lay leaders to ensure we are striving toward wellness together. As a resource from the Journey area of Missional Excellence, we are offering a six-month “Healthy Church Academy” for lay leaders, S/PPRC chairs and members. It will be led by the **Rev. Dr. Ron Bell**, director of Healing and Resilience for Discipleship Ministries at the Upper Room. Additionally, this will be in partnership with our friends in the Oklahoma Annual Conference.

The Academy will be held online via Zoom once per month beginning in September and continuing through February. The sessions will be 90 minutes in length on Monday evenings at 8 p.m. Dates include:

- *September 16*
- *October 21*
- *November 18*
- *December 16*
- *January 13*
- *February 17*

More information on the specific topics can be found by **clicking here**, or by sending an email to [graceumcravena@statetel.com](mailto:graceumcravena@statetel.com) – requesting more information. To register for this resource, please complete the **registration here**, or send an email to [graceumcravena@statetel.com](mailto:graceumcravena@statetel.com) – requesting registration form, and purchase Rev. Dr. Bell’s book, *Stories for Another Day: A Journal* by **clicking here** or by purchasing from your preferred book seller.

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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](http://www.gumcravena.com)