



## *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**

**NOVEMBER 2023**

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

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

By now, the leaves have changed color, making a beautiful scene all around us. Many of the leaves have fallen to the ground, helping us to see how beautiful it can be to let go. At this point last year, we had just finished our series on Re-Shaped, where we were reminded that we were made for change – as God, the Potter, reshapes us again and again. A lot has changed in the last year, and there are more changes coming! We continue to support each other as we move through these changes, both big and small. And many steps along the way are both good and hard.

One of those changes is having the building and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the land up for sale. The Town of Coeymans has put in an offer, which is bittersweet. It makes the idea of moving much more real. That means we will need to step up our deciding what to take and what to leave/sell/find homes for. There are a limited number of pews that are likely to be sold, and we are looking for

homes for the organ and some of the bigger items inside of the church. Anyone willing to assist in this work is welcome to join the crew.

As we are preparing for the future, we have a group of about a dozen that have begun learning how to begin a new faith community or do things differently in a new space. Both of these may be possibilities, with having our “regular” Sunday morning worship service and then something different, a different time and a different approach to learning about God’s love and sharing it with others. It’s both exciting and scary, especially since we don’t have an exact location yet. But we know that God has a purpose for us and God isn’t done working in and through Grace UMC!

We begin November by celebrating the saints we have lost in the past year, as well as celebrating the saints among us. As of today, we have not had any members pass away, but I know there are family and friends associated with the church that have. If you have a name that you would like read during our Sunday morning worship service on the 5<sup>th</sup>, please send me the name. On the 12<sup>th</sup> we have an opportunity to celebrate our work and vote on our leadership. And later this month we celebrate Thanksgiving. And we already celebrate that the families we have adopted will be provided for – all the items necessary for their meals have been signed for!!

As we get close to the end of the year, we recognize that this will be our last Christmas here at 16 Hillcrest Drive and we would like to make it a special service. We are making plans to have worship in the sanctuary at 4:30pm and to have some special music. We would love to have the bells play at that service. If you can play bells, or read music, or even if you don’t read music but can count – we’d love to have you join in! We hope to do some practicing later in this month, so that we can be prepared for Christmas Eve. If you have other ideas for special music, please let me know! We’d love to have a wonderful celebration of the gifts that we have in our congregation.

This is a lot to take in. We continue to meet after worship on Sundays to discuss ideas and concerns, and to find ways to address the grief that comes with all this change. Let us know what would be helpful as we move through this challenging and exciting time in the life of Grace UMC. And as always, let us continue to work together, as we move forward and put our faith and love into action and practice.

Peace for the journey, Pastor Kim



2 Emma Lambert  
3 Devona Quinn  
3 William Haslett  
4 JoAnne Burrill  
8 Andrew Ginder  
9 Liz Spence

11 Cindy Bliss  
11 Jessica Ingraham  
12 Preston Lambert  
18 Jay Ingraham  
20 Chris Ingraham  
22 Cole Pelton

***Some of the special days celebrated in November are:***

- All Saints' Day — November 1, 2023
- Daylight-Saving Time Ends — November 5, 2023
- Veterans Day — November 11, 2023
- Christ the King Sunday — November 26, 2023
- Bible Sunday — November 19, 2023
- National Bible Week — November 19-25, 2023
- Thanksgiving Day — November 23, 2023



Daylight Saving Time ends on **Sunday, November 5**. Remember to set your clocks back one hour!

**BOUNTY OF THANKS**



We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

house,  
lose the savor of  
the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

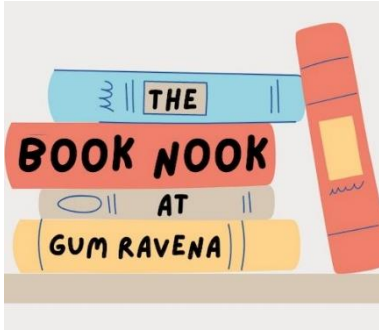
And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our permit us not to be cast down; let us not past mercies and past pleasures; but, like

—Robert Louis Stevenson



**BARGAIN SHED NEWS**

Shop hours are Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to noon. Stop in soon to see what new things are on our shelves. At the present time, we are not accepting donations. We're hoping to stay open this fall until November 18, weather permitting.



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

The Book Nook is trying something different this year. We're having a "Rolling" Holiday Sale over two weeks on our usual Tuesday and Saturday open days. And we'd love donations of newer novels and mysteries and newer nonfiction books, along with DVDs and CDs. Books released in the past five years ago or so would be perfect. Share with your friends.



**WE NEED DONATIONS  
THIS MONTH**

**For our "Rolling"  
Holiday Sale**

**Tuesday, Nov. 28**  
**Saturday, Dec. 2**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 5**  
**Saturday, Dec. 9**

## Heavenly Humor

In surgery for a heart attack, a middle-aged woman has a vision of God by her bedside. "Will I die?" she asks. God says, "No. You have 30 more years to live." With 30 years to look forward to, she decides to make the best of it. Since she's in the hospital, she gets liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants and collagen injections in her lips. She looks great! The day she's discharged, she exits the hospital with a swagger, crosses the street, and is immediately hit by an ambulance and killed. Up in heaven, she sees God. "You said I had 30 more years to live," she complains. "That's true", says God. "So what happened?" she asks. God shrugs. "I didn't recognize you."



*"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."*

—Native American saying



### **GRATEFUL FOR GRACE**

In this oneness, Jesus Christ is the Mediator, the Reconciler, between God and man. Thus he comes forward to man on behalf of God, calling for and awakening faith, love and hope, and to God on behalf of man, representing man, making satisfaction and interceding. Thus he attests and guarantees to God's free grace and at the same time attests and guarantees to God man's free gratitude.

—Karl Barth, *The Humanity of God*

## **TAKE TIME TO RECHARGE**

“Then Jesus said, ‘Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.’ He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat” (Mark 6:31, NLT). Can you relate? Especially during the holidays, we’re “coming and going” so much that we often run out of steam.

As an introvert, I learned an important lesson while navigating a busy graduation season for my son. I was happy to host a celebration for family and friends, but about 20 minutes into the party, fatigue clouded my spirit. My social battery was empty and desperately needed charging.

I sought out my cousin — who “gets” me — and admitted I needed a break. He kindly replied, “Then go into another room and just be. We’ve got things covered.” I was heard and assured that it was okay to press pause. Even Jesus and his disciples sought privacy and rest.

In what ways do you need a break today? Even if you’re an extrovert, how can you care for your whole self during the holiday rush? Pay attention and give yourself permission to proactively recharge your battery.

—Janna Firestone



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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)**