



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**

Don't forget!! Clocks go back an hour on November 2.

NOVEMBER 2025

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

As the leaves continue to change color and fall, and the daylight grows smaller each day, we recognize the changing of seasons both in the world and in the church. We change our clocks this first weekend (fall back), which means evening walks will require safety measures earlier than before. November 2nd brings a service that includes remembering our saints we have lost in the last year: Ralph Rominger, Mabel Klenk, Lee Case, Robert Case, and Harriet Marple. We then have a few weeks before the end of the Christian Year (Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday), followed by Thanksgiving, and the beginning of the Christian year – Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

This year, perhaps more than other years, we recognize the darkness that can be felt by many. We continue to remember those

who have lost their jobs, been fired or laid off, furloughed or are working without being paid. Others also feel strain from losing food assistance and the possibility of affordable healthcare. It can feel overwhelming seeing all those in need and not knowing what can be done. One way we can help is to purchase items for those in need (getting them to an area food pantry), remembering that personal hygiene items are always needed too. Giving funds to our local pantries is another option. One of the most effective uses of one's money is to donate to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY. Every dollar that is donated can provide 4 meals for a person in need. They are able to multiply the value of each dollar donated to provide more than any individual is able to. If you are looking for a more hands-on way to help, consider volunteering to sort through donations. To learn more about volunteering or about the Regional Foodbank of Northeastern NY you can go to their website: <https://regionalfoodbank.net/volunteer-page/> or <https://regionalfoodbank.net>.

With all that is going on in our world these days, it is easy to get overwhelmed and feel like things are hopeless or that there isn't anything that we can do to change it. And while there are some things that we cannot change, there are actions that we can take. Take a break from the news when you need to. Don't isolate yourself. Get together with people that bring joy to your life or find activities that get you out of your usual surroundings. Look for the good in the world – look for the helpers, the healers, the joyful; listen to music that feeds your soul; hang out in God's creation. Stay connected with God, even if it means wrestling with your faith, being frustrated with God, or just asking a lot of questions. God can handle it.

No matter what is happening in the world or in our own lives, we are not alone. We are never alone. Let us continue to put our faith and love into action and practice, as we become a people of grace.

Peace for the Journey,
Pastor Kim

Poll Question: Would you prefer to have Christmas Eve service the Sunday before Christmas Eve in the late afternoon/evening (morning service would be Advent 4) or continue having it on the 24th at 4/4:30?



4 JoAnne Burrill

8 Andrew Ginder

9 Liz Spence

11 Cindy Bliss

11 Jessica Ingraham

18 Jay Ingraham

20 Chris Ingraham

22 Cole Pelton

Some of the special days celebrated in November are:

- All Saints' Day — November 1, 2025
- Daylight-Saving Time Ends — November 2, 2025
- Veterans Day — November 11, 2025
- Bible Sunday — November 23, 2025
- National Bible Week — November 23-29, 2025
- Christ the King Sunday — November 23, 2025
- Thanksgiving Day — November 27, 2025
- First Sunday of Advent — November 30, 2025
- Book Nook & Bargain Shed are open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am-Noon

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.



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

who help us further our education mission.

*And don't miss our drop in Friends Around the Table on Tuesdays.
Good conversation and free snacks.*

The Book Nook has lots going on this month.

First, is our monthly special on select books.

Second, for people who are looking for Large Print books, we received a large donation of titles from the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk library and a private donor.

November Specials

Kids' Books	10/\$5
Cookbooks	5/\$1
Gardening	5/\$1
Health and Wellness . . .	5/\$1
Religion	5/\$1
Pets and Animals	3/\$1
Danielle Steel Novels . .	5/\$1
Fern Michaels Novels . .	3/\$1

Our Holiday Decorations Room Opens November 15



And, third, our Holiday Decorations Room will be opening on November 15. We'll be accepting additional donations for the room through November.



As has been our holiday custom, Grace will be providing Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts for 2-3 local families. Beginning in November, our Tom Turkey food sign-up “feathers” will be available in the Fellowship room. Please sign up, shop, and bring your purchased items back to the church for sorting and distribution. Deadline is Saturday, November 22nd.

JOIN US FOR

A Classic Rock Sing Along

(Popular 60s, 70s & 80s Songs - With a Message)

Sunday Nov. 23 ~ 3 pm

Grace UMC Hall, Hillcrest Dr. Ravena



FEATURING SHARON AND THE LYONS

**FREE Entertainment, Lyric Sheets & Snacks
Donations Welcome**

Bring your friends. Bring the family. All ages welcome.

Singing to the accompaniment of Sharon Phillips and the Lyons (Bills and Dalton). You may be surprised at how many of your old-time rock favorites have a message for today.

Comaraderie, free refreshments, and guaranteed fun. And you don't have to sing on key. We'll have choir members to drown you out.

**GIVE
THANKS**

Letter from Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez

Dear partners in ministry,

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

Across our Episcopal Area, the government shutdown is straining food pantries, increasing demand, and stretching volunteers. Families are arriving in greater numbers, and the threat of SNAP benefit cuts will only deepen food insecurity.

In a recent [letter](#), the Council of Bishops urged our government leaders to set aside partisanship and seek common ground for the sake of those they serve. We also called on United Methodists to respond with compassion and action.

Jesus said, *"I was hungry and you gave me food"* (Matthew 25:35). This is our call to embodied faith—loving boldly, serving joyfully, and leading courageously, meeting needs hand to hand.

I am grateful for the work already happening. Hundreds of churches in the Susquehanna and Upper New York Area offer and support food pantries where people find not only nourishment, but dignity and welcome.

Now is the time to ACT!

- Organize food drives
- Spread the word in worship, newsletters, and social media
- Take special offerings to buy food in bulk
- Partner with schools, businesses, and other community groups
- Prioritize non-perishables, high-protein items, and shelf-stable goods

Whether your church run a pantry or support one, let us respond with generosity. This is who we are—followers of Jesus, embodying God's love, with our neighbors in all places.

Together in Christ's mission,

Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez
Susquehanna & Upper New York Area
The United Methodist Church



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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