



The Messenger
Grace United Methodist
Church
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143
(518) 756-6688

Email: graceumcravena@statetel.com
Website: www.gumcravena.com
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**

JANUARY 2026

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

Happy New Year! It's the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026.

Sometimes the new year can feel a bit scary, and other times it's bringing new challenges and opportunities. Often, it's a little bit of both! Whatever the new year brings, we know that we do not go alone. We have Emmanuel, God is with us, in whatever challenges and opportunities that come our way.

Our year begins with Epiphany, a celebration of light and the interaction of the Magi, Jesus, and his parents. Over the past few years, we have done Star Words – a word that is given for each person that can help set your intention for the new year. We will continue this practice – so if you would like to have your own word for this year, let me know by Jan 4th and I will send you one.

I will be taking a week off (5th - 11th), but our leadership will be taking over worship for a Wesley Covenant worship (11th). The Covenant Renewal Service was introduced by John Wesley in 1775 as a means for Methodists to gather for self-examination, reflection, and dedication to God. While the original liturgy has undergone revisions, its core purpose remains intact: to provide a meaningful opportunity for believers to reaffirm their faith and commitment to God.

The last two Sundays of January, we'll delve into Jesus' baptism (and an opportunity to reaffirm your own baptismal vows) and the start of his public ministry as he gathers his disciples. We recall our own calling into discipleship and how God calls each of us to different aspects of helping to create the kin-dom of God.

Change is happening all around us. Our district administrative assistant retired last year and our District Superintendent Debbie Earthrowl will be retiring from that position at the end of June. I invite you to pray for Joanna, the new District AA, and for the Cabinet, as we await their decision about who will replace Debbie at the end of her term.

One last prayer request – The Blissess, the Gordons and I met with the New York State Housing Authority and the architect, et al. in late December and ask that you continue to prayerfully wait for updates. God is indeed doing a new thing!

May we continue to work together to put our faith and love into action and practice.

PS: Please let me know if you are interested in a Bible or book study in the coming year and/or having a sermon(s) on specific topics. I have one book, *The Bible: What We Get Right (and Wrong) about Scripture's Most Controversial Issues*, that a couple of people are interested in reading. If others are interested, we will find a time that works for the group.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is
stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are
home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

Peace for the Journey,
Pastor Kim



Birthdays and Anniversaries

15 Colin McTigue

25 Baylea & Tom

18 Will Robertson

Williams

23 Adam Newton

Some of the special days celebrated in January are:

- New Year's Day — January 1, 2026
- Epiphany — January 6, 2026
- Baptism of the Lord — January 11, 2026
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day — January 19, 2026
- Book Nook — Tuesdays & Saturdays — 9:00 am — Noon
- Bargain Shed — Tuesdays & Saturdays — 9:00 am — Noon
- Last Friends Around the Table until April — January 4



NEWS FROM THE BOOK NOOK



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.*

**We will be stopping Friends Around the Table from
January 11 through March, and restart in April.
We'll keep you posted.**



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.



A PURPOSEFUL NEW YEAR



to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful;

— C. Neil Strait

FOR GOD SO LOVED

One of the hallmarks of John's short sermons is that they almost always contain the plan of salvation in a single verse. Here it is verse 16: "This is how God showed his love to the world. He gave his one and only son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have life eternal." In perhaps the most beautiful words ever written, this verse presents the why as well as the how of God's redeeming love. Later, in his letters, John will betray a preoccupation with the question "What is the meaning of love?" Here he gives himself and all of the answer.

— Michael Card in The Parable of Joy

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for participating in this year's Giving Tree. We were able to help the families have a wonderful Christmas. A special note of thanks to Brian and Sharon for being Santa's shoppers.



**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143-1409**

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