



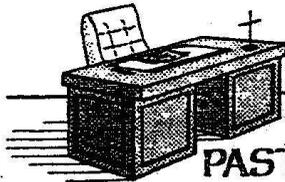
The Messenger
Grace United Methodist Church

16 Hillcrest Drive

Ravena, NY 12143-1409

Rev. Judith Johnson-Siebold, Ph.D.
Pastor

Rev. William F. Rogers, S.T.M.
Pastor Emeritus



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

April 2012

Dear Friends,

In the wintertime we often forget

what it feels like to go outdoors without several layers of clothing,
what it looks like to see new plants knifing out of the ground,
what it smells like when damp soil is raked,
what it sounds like when birds greet the dawn with song,
what it tastes like when fresh mint is added to tea,
yet warmer weather has the potential to refresh our memories of all these
experiences year after year.

The Church of Jesus Christ, in its wisdom, has created Church seasons, so that our
memories of important faith events might also be refreshed year after year.

Palm Sunday (April 1st) comes when we had almost forgotten

the sound of people praising Jesus,
the sight of waving palm branches,
the scent of victory in the nostrils of those who loved Jesus but didn't understand
his kind of victory.

Maundy Thursday (April 5th – 6pm potluck & Tenebrae Service in Fellowship Hall)
comes when we had almost forgotten
the feeling of good fellowship around the table,
the scent of grape juice and warm bread,
the sound of Jesus saying "One of you will betray me,"
the sight of worried disciples wondering "Is it I?"

Good Friday (April 6th - Ecumenical Service at Riverview Church, 7pm) comes when we
had almost forgotten
the feeling of terror when we are plunged into darkness,
the sight of support disappearing as, one by one, the disciples leave Jesus to suffer
alone,
the sound of nails being pounded into Jesus' hands.

Easter Sunday (April 8th - Sunrise service here at GUMC -6am; Regular Service at
10:30)
comes when we had almost forgotten
the feeling of joy when we allow ourselves to believe that Jesus is alive,
the sight of white altar cloths replacing the purple of penitence,
the scent of victory, knowing God has already won the final battle with evil.

Come celebrate these days with your Church and remember the truths we hold dear.

Faithfully,

Pastor Judi

Reminder...our Lenten and Easter schedule:

Wednesday, Feb 22nd - Introduction and brief Ash Wednesday service around the tables
Wednesday, Feb 29th - First practice of fruitful congregations
Wednesday, March 7th - Second practice of fruitful congregations
Wednesday, March 14th - Third practice of fruitful congregations
Wednesday, March 21st - Fourth practice of fruitful congregations
Wednesday, March 28th - Fifth practice of fruitful congregations
Wednesday, April 4th - Conclusions
Thursday, April 5th - Holy Thursday Tenebrae around the tables, w/youth drama
Sunday, April 8th - 6am Easter Sunrise Service at GUMC
Sunday, April 8th - 10:30 Easter Service

APRIL GREETERS

In following our tradition to have someone to meet and greet folks coming into church, the following people have volunteered to be greeters for the month of April:

- 4/1 – Edna & Ralph Rominger
- 4/8 – Barb Bullock
- 4/15 – Peg & Jim Sherman
- 4/22 – Sandy Racey & Harriet Marple
- 4/29 – The Bradshaw's

SOUP SALE RESULTS

The March 18th Soup Sale was a big success. We made \$205. What the money will be used for has yet to be determined at this printing. I do want to thank everyone who helped make it a success from the bakers, eaters, set up crew to the clean up help. This congregation is so amazing! We had 11 different soups, 3 different types of bread, and 5 different types of cake. Thank you everyone!!

—Barbara Coryell



WORSHIP COMMITTEE REQUEST

If you are available to help set up for the April 5th Maundy Thursday service in Fellowship Hall, please contact Ginny Pearson. Thanks to all who are able to help out.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

There will be a community service on Good Friday (April 6th) to be hosted by the Riverview Baptist Church in Coeymans. The service begins at 7pm and all are welcome to attend.

ACOUSTIC DOORWAYS TO PERFORM

On Friday, April 13th at 7:30pm, we will host an Acoustic Doorways concert sponsored by the RCS Library.

GeoBeat, featuring Aston “Robot” Ellis on steel pans will entertain with a rousing evening of calypso and reggae. Band members include Crispin Catricala, Dave Casner, Danny Welchel and Brian Melnik.

Tickets are available at the Library and at the door: Adults \$8.00, Children and Seniors \$5.00.

We will provide finger foods and desserts during intermission. Please look for the sign-up sheet if you would like to bring a refreshment to share that evening.

For more information, please visit:
www.RCScommunitylibrary.org.



It's time!!!!

We will be opening the Bargain Shed on Saturday, April 14 for our new season. On Wednesday, March 28 (weather permitting) we will begin by having a spring cleaning day (washing windows, washing and re-hanging curtains, dusting shelves, etc.). You do not have to be a staff member to help us out with this task.

Then, during the week of April 2–7 we will be working each day starting at 9:00 a.m. until about noon. The following week, April 9–13, the work days will again start at 9:00 a.m.

We will be receiving donations any day **after March 28** when someone is at the Shed to receive them. It is requested that donated items be clean and in working order. **And, please, please . . .** do not leave anything outside. We get so many lovely things and hate to see them ruined when they are left out in the weather. We look forward to the 2012 season and hope you do too.



birthdays

Best wishes go out to those celebrating birthdays in the month of April:

- 5 Blake Frazee
- 7 Victoria Youmans
- 8 Logan Lambert
- 9 Matt Baumbach
- 10 Caelin Gordon-Stacey
- 17 Aaron June
- 19 Grace Buckley-Crist
- 26 Katie Beswick
- 27 Ann Coryell
- 28 Laura Case
- 30 Barbara Lisa
- 30 Sidney Young

LAST CALL FOR TAX RECEIPTS

This is a last reminder to anyone who would like a receipt for their 2011 contributions to the General Fund, please contact Don Moon at church or call 756-6920. (April 15th is right around the corner.)



We will be having a spaghetti dinner on April 21st at 4–7pm. The cost will be \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. More info on this to come during announcement times before our church service.

NIGHTINGALES TO SING ON EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is special in so many ways, and to make it even more special, the Nightingales will be singing “Lord I

Lift Your Name on High” for the congregation.

BBQs ARE BACK!

Just as we did last year, Grace UMC will be offering take-out dinners to the local community. April 19th will be the first chicken BBQ by Frese’s Catering. Dinners will be sold at the intersection of 143 & 9-W at the old Crossroads Ford parking lot. The cost will be \$10.00 and dinners will be available from 4pm until they are sold out. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors and be sure to stop by yourself!

NEW CLOTHES

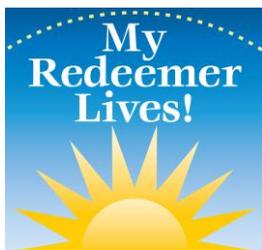
One night of bitter cold and pitiless storm, a mother was out in the wilds with her child in her arms. Unable to carry her precious burden and find a shelter, she took off her own outer clothing and, wrapping it about her little one, laid him in a cleft of the rock and hastened on, hoping to find help.

Next morning some shepherds heard the cry of a child and found the babe safe and warm in the rock’s cleft. Then, not far away in the snow, they discovered the mother — dead! She had stripped off her own garments and died in the cold to save her child.

Did not Jesus do the same? He took off his raiment and hung naked on his cross, that we may stand in the final judgment arrayed in robes of beauty.
— *J.R. Miller*

DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Each Sunday the children look around eagerly for food donations to bring to the altar. Help them feel generosity through your own generosity.



In 1912, as Charles Austin Miles grabbed his Bible, it opened to John 20. Reading the account of Mary Magdalene outside the garden tomb where Jesus' body had been laid, Miles felt powerfully that he was there. Inspired, he quickly wrote the poem "In the Garden" and later composed the music.

This hymn might seem sentimental and trite, if understood to refer to just any garden. But the song takes on profound meaning when recognized as Mary's

personal encounter with the living Lord.

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
And he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known!

RAVENA-COEYMANS-SELKIRK RESOURCE WEB PAGE

If you want a quick reference to what's happening in our area, you'll enjoy visiting this web site to see lots of local happenings...including our own Church functions. Go to: www.rcsresources.info/event-calendar.html and check it out. Enjoy!





The purpose of the gospel

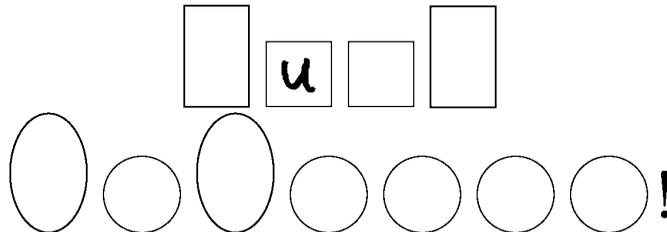
The gospel of John records many signs and miracles that Jesus performed in front of his disciples. Discover why these were written.



Directions: Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.

"... e ie e hat es u s
 is th es iah, the S n
 of od, nd tha by
 be ing ou m y
 ha e lif i hi na e."

JOHN 20:31, NIV



Just Believe!

Answers: "... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

GRACE 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 is happening each week from Sunday's Service sermon title and hymns to meetings and special events.



Deadline for articles for the **May** issue of *The Messenger* is **April 22nd**. Please send or e-mail articles to Barb Bullock at:

bbullock812@gmail.com

or

fax to: **731-8994**