



The Messenger

Grace United Methodist Church
16 Hillcrest Drive
Ravena, NY 12143

(518) 756-6688

www.gumcravena.com

Rev. Kim Krause, Pastor

Working together to put our faith and love into action.

May-June 2020

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Grace,

It has been about a month and a half since we have been able to worship together in our building. But as we often say, the church is not a building! The church is the people! Ekklesia – those that are called out, gathered together for the purpose of living and loving like Jesus! We have certainly been called out of our building, but I know that we are continuing to be the church wherever we go. I am thankful for all the ways that you are caring for your neighbors and even for those you don't know. Checking in on people that are alone or isolated from family, either by card, phone call, something dropped off at their house or email. And your prayers continue for all those in essential jobs and those that are hurting and grieving during this time of physical distancing.

I don't want to gloss over our own grief as we deal with not being able to see family and friends, and especially our church family. We are made to be together, for community and our inability to meet in person is really difficult.

We long to gather once again in our beloved sanctuary, to sing hymns together, to join voices in prayer, to watch our young folks in worship and as they eagerly go to Sunday School. We long to have time together after worship – to catch up and share in each other’s joys and know of concerns that our hearts can be together in prayer.

ZOOM allows us to be able to see each other and chat, and do some worship. But we know it’s not the same. We miss being closer physically, to be able to really see and hear each other with nothing getting in the way. It also doesn’t allow us to hear each other when we sing or pray together, but we can at least sing and pray together.

Facebook gives us an opportunity to hear the message without having to be at a specific time, sometimes live, sometimes hours after it’s been posted. The flexibility has been a plus for many people. Comments made help to know that people are listening. A comment or like/some emoji are helpful in knowing who has viewed it.

The good news is that this will not last forever. It often feels like forever, but we know that there will be a time when we can gather again. We’re not sure when that will be or what it will look like, but when we do, we **will** celebrate being together and sharing what we have learned during this time.

Until then, let us continue to care for each other, be in contact with each other and continue to be the church where we are! AMEN

Finance and other church matters

A big shoutout and THANK YOU to Mark Frauenberger for doing all the paperwork needed to apply for the assistance programs created to help small businesses (Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and \$10k Emergency Grant, through the SBA, as well as the Paycheck Protection Program Loan (PPPL)) at the beginning of April. We did not receive any funds from either of these at that time, but Mark was persistent and reapplied at the end of April and we will be receiving \$10,000 from the Paycheck Protection Program Loan. These funds can be used to assist in payroll, and up to 25% on utilities. As long as we maintain our staff and pastor, the loan will become a grant and will not need to be paid back.

We appreciate all of you who continue to support our ministries. Checks can be sent to the church or directly to Harriet Marple (please send a note to the church if you need her home address). We have also received a few donations from people that have been patrons of the Book Nook! What an awesome testimony to their gratitude to the church and their own stewardship in caring for the community.

Trustees will be meeting soon to discuss issues regarding the facility and reopening, which will be followed by an Ad Council meeting to hear their report/ideas. Information from the Upper New York Conference will be coming soon, as some areas of our conference are already into Phase I of reopening. A full plan will need to be voted on and distributed to our congregation prior to reopening.

Looking to the future and reopening

While we are still on lockdown and only essential services are allowed to remain open, this is the perfect time for us to consider the best way for us to reopen and to consider what of the new ways of gathering and worshipping might be useful to continue (short-term or long-term) and how they might need to be modified.

ZOOM meetings might need to be held for a while, at least until the limitations of space and number of people remain in effect. There may be other platforms available, but since ZOOM allows for people to call in to the meeting, it at least allows all that wish to be a part to participate. Documents can be shared and polls taken.

Sunday school will be a challenge, especially with the number of children and smaller spaces that we have. This may not be an issue until fall, but we need to start considering this.

Worship has a lot of questions that need to be answered: Can we fit everyone safely into our sanctuary while following the 6 foot rule? Will we be able to sing? (studies show that singing is a way the virus can be spread rapidly) Do we need to have temperature checks before anyone comes in? Will the bathrooms be open? How will we do communion and the offertory? How can we safely get people in and out of the sanctuary? Can we do coffee hour?

If we can't all be in the sanctuary for worship, do we want to consider having 2 services? What if we have people that aren't comfortable being in the sanctuary? How can we include them in worship? Do we want to try using Facebook or YouTube to help include them?

There are so many questions and, at this time, very few answers. Please send your questions and suggestions to pastorgraceumc@gmail.com



Peace, Pastor Kim

On Mother's Day, United Methodists around the world reach out and tell the important women in their lives how special they are. Methodist founder John Wesley did the same more than 275 years ago by regularly writing letters to his mother, Susanna. Often seeking advice and asking her to pray for him, John would always sign his letters to his mother, "Your affectionate and dutiful Son."



BARGAIN SHED

The Bargain Shed is closed. We are receiving items but only by appointment. Call Edna Rominger at 518-966-8740. We will be following any guidelines in place at the time of opening.

Please remember, donated items should be clean, in good condition and shelf ready. Also, since our storage space is limited, we appreciate it if items are seasonal in nature (Spring and Summer).

There are a few things we do **not** accept: computers, TV's, exercise equipment. We welcome small furniture pieces.

We are looking forward to seeing past as well as new customers. **HAPPY SPRING!**

BOOK NOOK NEWS

We are still closed for both book purchases and donations. But we're happy to announce that the RCS Community Library has asked us to partner with them to give books away FREE at library Wednesday noon to three (weather permitting).



Once we can reopen, we'll be glad to accept donations of all those books you've been reading during our social distancing.

Also, if you miss us as much as we miss you, the Book Nook is having Friends Around the Fireplace on Zoom from 10 to Noon on Tuesdays. It's bring your own coffee/tea and goodies, but the same fellowship as in person. Please share with any non-Grace United regular Friends Around the Fireplace dropins you know! Here's the information you need to join us:

Join Zoom Meeting - Attend

Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726947269?pwd=aWVtV1k1ZklQWFFYeHNtWkRHYkVvQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 2694 7269 Password: 868110

By phone: Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 827 2694 7269 - Password: 868110

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82726947269>

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thanks to donations from Walmart and the Book Nook, we were able to put together about 40 Easter baskets full of candy, little toys and books which were donated to children at St. Patrick's food pantry and Street Soldiers. We also donated a box of Easter egg dying kits. Thanks to a generous donation from Walmart more recently, we now have an abundance of Easter baskets being stored in one of the classrooms at church. There are wicker baskets and plastic buckets of every possible color as well as paper or plastic shredded grass. If you're dropping off goodies or making care baskets for neighbors or friends and would like to have some of the donated baskets, please let us know and we'll arrange to drop it off. We'd love for them to go to good use!



We are living through historic times.

In an effort to capture our COVID 19 experiences, and connect community members who may be feeling isolated, the RCS Community Library is initiating **Dear Stranger**, a letter writing program. We hope you'll participate!

Community members of all ages are invited to write a letter about what you would like people to know about your life now. Talk about the changes you've seen that you hope will last, the things you miss the most, new hobbies you've picked up, or anything else you'd like to share.

Begin your letter with "Dear Stranger" and sign off with "A Community Member." Do not use your name. Put your name and return address on the envelope so that we can forward you a letter from another "Dear Stranger" participant. A copy of each letter may be archived.

Send your letter to the RCS Community Library at 95 Main Street, Ravena, NY 12143 and we will forward it, without identifying information, to another participant. You'll receive a "Dear Stranger" letter in return.

By submitting a letter, you acknowledge that your letter will be screened by the Library, it may be archived or included in a local history collection and will be forwarded, anonymously, to another participant.

Feel free to contact the Library with questions at 518-756-2053 or at info@rcscommunitylibrary.org



MAY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 3 James Quinn
May 4 Brandon Malloy
May 5 Sam & Hazel Lambert
May 5 Marty & Mary Alice Van Wie
May 6 Rilley Kellam
May 13 Chelsea Youmans

May 17 Maddie McTigue
May 19 Cassandra Contreras
May 20 Ginny Frazee
May 22 Al Burrill
May 23 Kate Robertson
May 27 George June
May 31 Sadie Lambert



JUNE
Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 5 Pam Ginder
June 6 Jim & Peggy Sherman
June 15 Jay & Sue Ruso

June 16 Edna Kniffen
June 18 Melanie Martin
June 20 Kristina Gish
June 22 Beth Spoor

SPECIAL DAYS

- Ascension Day, *May 21, 2020*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2020*
- Pentecost, *May 31, 2020*
- Trinity Sunday, *June 7, 2020*
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2020*
- First day of summer, *June 20, 2020*
- Father's Day, *June 21, 2020*

CROP WALK - a message from Rev. Antonio Booth, Ravena CROP Walk Coordinator

The CROP Walk will be held the last Sunday in June - June 28th. It will be a virtual walk. What does this entail? The walk will have a designated route with markers for people to stop, reflect on the issues of hunger and to pray. We encourage churches to create teams to participate in the walk.

Although the walk is scheduled for June 28th churches are encouraged to have teams of people to walk any time from the Friday, June 26th through Sunday, June 28th. We will want churches to reserve a time. We can walk because we usually have about forty people in attendance. So, each church will probably have at the most ten people. Encourage everyone to wear a mask and hand sanitizer. We want everyone to be safe.

Finally, I want to encourage you to give online. Ravena CROP Walk has an online giving page. Go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/ravenany> Set up your Church team. You can have you members give to your team online. If you do not feel comfortable with online giving, please mail checks to Fran Lobdell at Grace United Methodist Church, 16 Hillcrest Drive, Ravena, NY 12143

This has been a challenging year. However, with the Lord we can meet the challenge because Jesus is the Lord our Banner!



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

