



## *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 2024**

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

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

At this time last year, we were looking at the real possibility of selling the church to the town and all the work that would need to be done prior to that happening. Unfortunately, that fell through, but we are still working on reducing material possessions and finding new homes for the more useful items, as well as getting everything together to have the church put back on the market through a different real estate agent. The flooring has all been sold and our bell has found a new home. We are working on the lot behind the parsonage to make it usable for both a prayer area and a community garden. Anyone wanting to be involved in these activities or planning is welcome to join those already involved in preparation.

We are finishing up our series *Do Unto Others* on the first Sunday of this month, just before election day. Our country has

become very divisive, with some bringing a level of vitriol not seen in a long time. Whatever the outcome of the election, we continue to be a people of grace and love, for only love can overcome hatred. Other than in situations where it is not safe to engage, I hope the lessons from our series will help us stay connected to all those around us through kindness, compassion, humility, respect and love. Time and space will be provided for those desiring a time for discussion/reflection/prayer after the election results are finalized. Please let me know if you are interested in this opportunity for better scheduling.

Before we know it, Thanksgiving will be here, and with it, the end of our Christian year, which leads us to the new year with Advent. We are continuing our practice of “adopting” families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas, so be on the lookout for opportunities to join in!

May we continue to be a place of grace and love for all those seeking a safe space. And may we continue to work together to put our faith and love into practice.

Peace for the Journey  
Pastor Kim

### **WESLEY'S RULES FOR VOTING**

Prior to John Wesley's advice on voting, Methodists were given the Three Simple Rules on which to base everything else. So keeping in mind 1) Do no harm, 2) Do good, 3) Attend to the ordinances of God, Wesley gave 3 pieces of advice on voting. On Thursday, October 6th, 1774 John Wesley wrote in his journal, "I met with those in our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them, 1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; 2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against; and, 3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

# NOVEMBER

## Birthdays

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, 2024
- Church Women United Meeting – November 1, 2024 – 12:30 pm  
Congregational Christian Church
- Daylight-Saving Time Ends — November 3, 2024
- Veterans Day — November 11, 2024
- Bible Sunday — November 24, 2024
- National Bible Week — November 24-30, 2024
- Christ the King Sunday — November 24, 2024
- Thanksgiving Day — November 28, 2024





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 23rd.

*“The busy holiday season is nearly upon us. God, help me focus on your goodness, peace and love, the heart of all the upcoming celebration.”*

### **IN AWE OF EVERYDAY JOYS**

Maybe you’ve heard of making micro-resolutions for the new year. Similarly, health experts recommend becoming aware of — and thankful for — micro-joys we experience and encounter.

In *The Power of Awe*, Jake Eagle and Michael Amster describe the benefits of taking several brief A.W.E. breaks throughout the day:

- **A** is for Attention, as you focus on something that amazes you or seems valuable.
- **W** is for Waiting, as you pause to take a deep breath.
- **E** is for Exhaling, as you breathe out and feel joy and gratitude.

This simple practice reveals how profound the “ordinary” can be, thanks to the generosity of our extraordinary God.

## **GOFUNDME CAMPAIGN**

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|  <p>GRACE UNITED METHODIST<br/>CHURCH RAVENNA</p>                   | <p><b>\$52,000</b></p>  <p><b>Our Goal<br/>To Pay<br/>Off Roof<br/>Loan and<br/>Moving<br/>Expenses</b></p> |
| <p><b>gofundme</b><br/>CHARITY</p> <p>Donate Online,<br/>at the Book Nook/Bargain<br/>Shed, or by mail<br/>16 Hillcrest Drive, Ravenna<br/>12143</p> | <p><b>No Donation is<br/>Too Small</b></p> <p><i>Thank you</i> </p> <p><b>And Bless You</b></p>             |

You all have some connection to or interest in Grace UMC, or you wouldn't be receiving this newsletter. We'd love you to remember that connection and fond memories and see if you have it in your heart to contribute to the church's GoFundMe campaign to pay off our old loan for defective roof repairs and moving expenses. So, we're asking you to help us raise these funds so that we

can move forward offering services and programs needed in our community while we share Jesus's word and love.

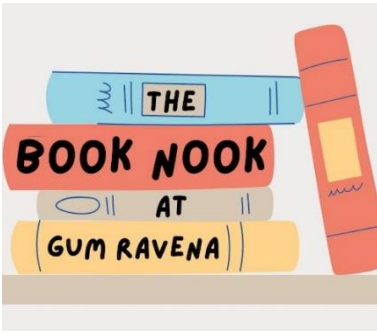
You can donate online at: <https://gofund.me/1b303812>, mail donations to the church, or drop them off at our 9:30 Sunday Service or at the Book Nook/Bargain Shed. Be sure to indicate that are for the GoFundMe Campaign.



### **BARGAIN SHED**



The Bargain Shed is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9:00am-Noon. Bargains Galore!!! The Bag Sale is still on! \$5.00/bag.



## **BUY 2, GET 1 FREE SEMI-ANNUAL SALE**

Books, CDs, and DVDs. Stock up on your favorite authors for the winter and maybe find a few holiday gifts. Also a room full of up-to-10 books for \$1 and 5 for a \$1 select DVDs and CDs. All during our regular Tuesday and Saturday 9 to Noon hours. Thanks to everyone who help us further our

education mission.

## **BE PREPARED ... TO WAIT**

My husband always keeps a book handy. When he picks up our kids or heads to an appointment, a current title is tucked securely under his arm. He expects to wait — and is prepared to do so. What could have been a frustrating delay turns into extra time to delve further into the story.

I, on the other hand, get caught off-guard if a doctor runs late or a meeting runs long. As the minutes tick by, my down time gets wasted — unless I quietly reflect on God’s goodness, return an email, take a short walk or chat with the person next to me.

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord,” says Psalm 27:14 (NIV). That’s an important reminder as Advent nears. Scripture advises us to use our waiting time wisely, preparing for God and drawing closer to him. What will you do while you wait for Jesus?

—Janna Firestone



# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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- each day take an item from your pantry and put it into a box or basket
- at the end of the month (or soon after), box up your goodies in a cardboard box or plastic bin and bring them to a local food bank
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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 at: [www.gumcravena.com](http://www.gumcravena.com)