



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 2025

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

Dear Family and Friends of Grace UMC,

It's hard to believe that 2024 is almost over and we are waiting for the new year to begin. We often look forward to changes that we hope will occur in the new year and anticipate, sometimes with angst, that not all will be as we hope. This year we are hopeful for new opportunities for the use of our building. We are also hoping to find a new place to call home in a more central location where we hope to be able to better connect with our community.

We also often look back on the past year and find places of joy and sorrow, growth and learning. It's been a year of ups and downs. We've done a lot of work together and are in a place to continue to move forward as we seek to serve God and share God's love with all we meet.

As we get ready for this new year, we recognize that this past month or so has been very busy. Thanksgiving to Christmas brings

so many opportunities to be with others, to celebrate, and to enjoy great food. But this time has also been very tiring. It requires a lot of energy to prepare for everything that we want to do and feel we are expected to do. So many are exhausted, hoping for an opportunity for some down time, but not knowing if it will come. There is so much that is expected from us – sometimes put on ourselves, but also by society that values output. We even fall into the trap of believing that we are only as good as the last thing we accomplished and are then expected to do even more. But this is NOT the way of God.

In an attempt to be counter-cultural and live into who we are as God's children, we will be using a four-week series in January called *Season of Rest*. It was co-developed with Upper New York, the Greater New Jersey and Eastern PA Conferences and Breakthrough, which centers on the vital spiritual practice of rest, offering a time of renewal, balance, and inspiration. Throughout the four Sundays in January, we will *explore the profound importance of rest in our lives. We begin with Elijah's experience of divine rest, learn how to find a healthy balance of rest, work and play, understand the rhythm of rest modeled by God, and affirm that God has given everyone the gift of rest to be embraced.*

Week 1: Release into Rest (1 Kings 19:1-9)

Discover how God helps us release into rest rather than pushing us to do more.

Week 2: A Rhythm of Rest (Ecclesiastes 3:1-13)

Explore ways to cultivate a healthy rhythm of rest, work, and play for spiritual growth.

Week 3: Why Kind of Rest? (Genesis 2:1-3)

Embrace the natural rhythm of rest modeled by God.

Week 4: The Gift of Rest (Leviticus 25:1-19)

Celebrate rest as a gift for restoration, equity, and wholeness for all people.

I'm looking forward to going through this series with all of you, as we re-learn the rhythms of life as God would have us experience an abundant life. As we learn and practice, we may find the messages from the world hard to quiet. It is in these times that we can encourage each other to continue in our counter-cultural path as a disciple of Jesus and child of God, enabling us to continue to put our faith and love into action.

Peace for the Journey
Pastor Kim



15 Colin McTigue
18 Will Robertson
23 Adam Newton

January 2025 Special Days

- *New Year's Day — January 1, 2025*
- *Epiphany — January 6, 2025*
- *Christian Unity Service – January 19, 2025 – 3:00 pm*
 - *Congregational Christian Church, Ravana*
- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day — January 20, 2025*
- *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Jan 18-25, 2025*

GIVING TREE



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.

TAX INFO

Don't forget if you would like a statement of your donations to Grace UMC for 2024, please see Cindy Bliss (or email us at graceumcravena@statetel.com) and we will be happy to supply that for you.

BARGAIN SHED



*Best Wishes for 2025 from
Edna, Cindy, Joanne & Fran*

We'll see you on January 4!!



GOD IN CHURCH OR NATURE? YES.

Church isn't designed to be an alternative to the real world. Worship is a time and space apart from the world in order for us to find our way out into the world. Worship isn't a man-made place distinct from the beauty of the natural world; at its best, church is a place where we realize God's glory in the world we find ourselves in. ... Do I find God in a church? or out in nature? Yes. ... In church I hope to sharpen my senses so I can discover the house of God everywhere.

—James C. Howell, *Everywhere Is Jerusalem*



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY JAN. 19

Global Ministries, the worldwide mission and development agency of The United Methodist Church, with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), invites churches and individuals to celebrate Human Relations Day on Sunday, January 19, 2025.

One of the Special Sunday Offerings of the United Methodist Church, this collection benefits neighborhood ministries through community developers, supports community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and works with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

ALL ABOUT ATTITUDE





Changing how we think — that is, how we speak to ourselves — can be tough. But God wants to transform our reactions and motives, dispelling pride, a lack of confidence and anxiety. In this new year:

- *I'm alone* can become *God is with me.*
- *I can't do this* can become *Anything is possible with God.*
- *I'm failing* can become *Just because I'm struggling, it doesn't mean I'm failing.*
- *I'm not enough* can become *I'm God's beloved child.*
- *I'm tired* can become *God will give me rest.*

Don't stop there. Consider the concerns in your heart and let God give you new words and attitudes.

—Janna Firestone

GOFUNDME CAMPAIGN

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



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

—Martin Luther King Jr.

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 at: www.gumcravena.com