

God's Grace Given!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him know. (John 1: 14 – 18)

Jesus, born in a stable, has made God known. Salvation has come to the world through Jesus, the living image of God the Father. As we celebrate God's mysterious love for us today, we express our gratitude in song and through praise of all kinds, the joyful expressions of a people who know what has been done for them. We also give praise and thanksgiving to God through the love we share in our family – the kindness, cooperation and consideration we give to one another. This day, this year will bring us ample opportunities to share the love we have been given through Jesus Christ: opportunities to forgive others and to ask forgiveness; to help feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless; to encourage those who struggle with sadness or disease. The grace of God, the blessings we have received strengthen us to do, as Jesus said, even greater things than he, through him. He will make us lights shining in the darkness.

We have in the scriptures from the book of Philippians these wonderful words of grace upon grace. "Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had. (6) Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. (7) He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. (8) And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. (9) Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, (10) so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2: 5 – 11)

During the pioneer era in America, a poverty-stricken man found his way into a settlement one day on the western frontier. He had run out of supplies and needed food. Someone stopped to talk to him, and noticed that he wore a small pouch on a ribbon around his neck. The man explained that it was a charm given to him many years before. He opened the pouch, removed the crumpled paper and handed it to his inquirer. The villager discovered that it was a regular discharge from the Continental Army signed by George Washington himself, entitling the man a pension for life. All of those years he had carried around a bona fide promise that all his needs would be met all unread and unclaimed just as if it had never been made.

It is high time for all to recognize, as did St. Paul, "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, how that though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich." The time has past when anyone can be satisfied with just sitting on the promises. The time has come for everyone to stand on the promises of God, with forgiveness and life from God himself through faith in the Savior he has sent to the whole world.

What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Jesus Christ holds the promise of a new day for the whole world. Like the first beam of light which splits the darkness between heaven and earth, the birth of Jesus Christ was-and still is today- the breakthrough of help and hope. To all those neglected and despised in the world he is the One who declares, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." To all those bowed down by toil and the grim futility of life for which there seems to be no future at all, he is the One who calls, "Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Yes, Jesus speaks with the voice of hope: "Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption."

To all who lie on beds of suffering and pain, troubled by loneliness and frustration, he says with quiet confidence, "I am the good Shepherd. The good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." To all who quake at the prospect of death, struggling against something for which there is no cure this side of eternity, he asserts with quiet confidence, "I am the Resurrection and the Life...whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Oh, come, blest Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by your drawn nigh.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Truly because of God's grace we can all have a Happy New Year and even unto all eternity. May the Lord continue to shine His light upon you, and may His light in you shine through you to others held still in the darkness of unbelief.

*God bless
Pastor les*

Calendar of Events

January

- 4 – Joint Worship at Ransomville Church 10:00 AM – Penny and Food Collection
- 4 - Charge Conference at 4:00 PM
- 11 – Joint Worship at Fillmore Chapel 10:00 AM
- 13 - Fillmore Chapel United Methodist Women meet at 7:00 PM
- 13 – Ransomville Administrative Council meeting at 7:30 PM
- 18 – Fillmore Chapel Administrative Council meeting following worship
- 19 – Planning Meeting at 7:00 PM
- 21 – Bible Study resumes

February

- 1 –Joint Worship at Ransomville Church – 10:00 AM
 - Penny and Food Collection
- 8 – Joint Worship at Fillmore Chapel – 10:00 AM
- 10 – Fillmore Chapel United Methodist Women meet at 7:00 PM
- 10 – Ransomville Administrative Council meet at 7:30 PM
- 19 – Ransomville United Methodist Women at 1:00 PM
- 15 – Fillmore Chapel Administrative Council meet following worship
- 25 – Ash Wednesday

March

- 1 – Joint Worship at Ransomville Church – 10:00 AM
 - Penny and Food Collection
- 8 – Joint worship at Fillmore Chapel – 10:00 AM
- 10 - Fillmore Chapel United Methodist Women meet at 7:00 PM
- 10 - Ransomville Administrative Council meet at 7:30 PM

CRAFT CLASSES IN RANSOMVILLE CHURCH

January Stamping Classes

Tuesday January 20th – 6 PM – “Love is in the air”. Join us in making some truly wonderful Valentines! These cards will have a Victorian romance theme and will be hard to give away! \$19.

Tuesday January 27th – 6PM. Pastel Chalking with florals – You will be delighted in the way these florals will look with the use of chalks! Come learn several techniques for shading that will give your designs a touch of color. \$19.

All classes held at Ransomville United Methodist Church. Prior registration is required by contacting Anita @ 297-0715 or e-mail at crazy4stamping@aol.com.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthdays

Fillmore Chapel

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – Herberta Skellen | 14 – Cathy Wills | 21 – Amanda Sulinski |
| 1 – Elberta Wills | 14 – Joseph Heasley | 21 – Anna Jane Michel |
| 1 – Lisa Sembert | 15 – Beth Skellen | 22 – Jeremy Skellen |
| 5 – Kendra Schultz | 16 – Erin Wilkinson | 22 – Janelle Jordan |
| 9 – Matthew Hillman | 18 – Andrew Pressley | 27 – Brandon Susice |
| 11 – Spencer Segar | 19 – James Michel | 27 – Brandon Beggs |
| 12 – Maureen Koroschetz | 21 – Steve Harris | 29 – Crystal Peters |

Ransomville

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 – Emerson Frey | 21 – Sue Burmaster | 22 – Katelyn Jeffery |
| 6 – Katherine Truesdell | 21 – Harold Barnes | 24 – Elizabeth Dent Wade |
| 7 – Clyde Burmaster | 21 – Alan Spring | 26 – Shirley Schroeder |
| 16 – Linda Randall | 22 – Millie Hillman | 26 – Greta Spring |

Anniversaries

Ransomville

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 – Julie & Dana Hatchett | 18 – Denton & Esther Hardison | 28 – Earl & Jane Steiner |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|



Birthdays

Fillmore Chapel

2 – Mona Carney
2 – Doug Ortiz
2 – Donna Sulinski

9 – Cindy Stewart
13 – Brett Senek
17 – Megan Tweed

18 – C. Kenneth Wills, III
24 – Jeff Wilkinson
25 – Caleb Canfield

Ransomville

3 – Nancy Trank
5 – Eric Olsen
6 – Pam Jacobs
7 – Earl J. Robins

10 Tom Jacobs
11 – Gina Piva
16 – Stephen & Hannah Trank
19 – Dean Schroeder

19 – Paige Hardison
21 – Steve Olsen
25 – Patricia Robins
27 – Lila Myers



Birthdays

Fillmore Chapel

1 – Pam Lederhouse
9 – Hazel Lederhouse
10 – Olivia May Wills

16 – Larry Peters
22 – Mark Senek
22 – Andrew Hillman

24 – Austin Susice
26 – Sue Lederhouse
27 – Marc Canfield

Ransomville

1 – Bill McLaughlin
3 – Callin Wade
3 – Teresa Trank
8 – Raymond Graf
9 – Julie Spring-Hatchett
10 – Eric Truesdell

10 – Doug S. Siez
12 – Nicole York
12 – Betty Manchester
16 – Amanda Jacobs
19 – Timothy Truesdell

20 – Michael Trank
22 – Marian Frey
22 – Amy Olsen
24 – Ann Jacobs
30 – Teresa Wilms

Anniversaries

Fillmore Chapel

2 – Chester & Donna Sulinski

26 – Jim & Pam Tweed

Ransomville

4 – Raymond & Erva Graf

NEWS FROM RANSOMVILLE CHURCH

Ransomville United Methodist women will not meet in January. February meeting location will be announced in the bulletin.

Sunday School: We are looking for volunteers to sign up to teach Sunday school. If you are interested in teaching at least once, it would be greatly appreciated. A packet of teaching materials will be provided. The class is during worship. Please see Jenny Spring or my Olsen. A sign-up calendar is outside the classroom.

Free wooden desk: Alan & Jenny Spring have a nice wooden desk they are giving away. The measurements are: 34' deep, 60' long and 28 3/4' high. If you have a need for such a desk, please see Alan or Jenny.

GOOD MORNING.....

When I say good morning I mean....

G – od

O – ffers us His

O – **utstanding**

D – evotion

M – ake us

O – bedient &

R – eady for a

N – ew day with Him.

I – nspire others please, and

N – ever forget

G – od loves you!

Christian One Liners

Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Don't give God instructions—just Report for duty.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

God is good

All the time

All the time

God is good

Ransomville United Methodist Church Website: www.ransomvilleumc.org

E-mail: mail@ransomvilleumc.org

Mailing address: 2573 Youngstown Lockport Road, P.O. 250, Ransomville, NY 14131

Anyone interested in having the bulletin e-mailed to you, please send your request to the office.

Question: “What sort of New Year’s Resolution should a Christian make?”

Answer: The practice of making new Year’s resolutions goes back over 3000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a New Year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality, there is no difference between December 31st and January 1st. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight on December 31st. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year’s resolutions. However, if a Christian determines to make a New Year’s resolution, what kind of resolution should he or she make?

Common New Year’s resolutions are: to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money better, and spend more time with family. By far the most common New Year’s resolution is to lose weight, in conjunction with exercising more and eating healthier. These are all good goals to set. However, 1 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to keep exercise in perspective: “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” The vast majority of New Year’s resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. This should not be.

Many Christians make New Year’s resolutions to pray more, to read the Bible every day, and to attend church more regularly. These are fantastic goals. However, these New Year’s resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual resolutions, because there is no power in a New Year’s resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity has no value unless you have the proper motivation for stopping or starting that activity. For example, why do you want to read the Bible every day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually, or is it because you have just heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with your body, or is for vanity, to honor yourself?

Philippians 4:13n tells us, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” John 15:5 declares, “I Am the vine; you are the branches. If a Man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” If God is the center of your New Year’s resolution, it has a chance for success, depending on your commitment to it. If it is God’s will for something to be fulfilled, He will enable you to fulfill it. If a resolution is not God honoring and/or is not in agreement in God’s Word, we will not receive God’s help in fulfilling the resolution.

So, what sort of New Year’s resolution should a Christian make? Here are some suggestions: (1) Pray to the Lord for wisdom (James 1:5) in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make; (2) Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfill the goals God gives you; (3) Rely on God’s strength to help you; (4) Find an accountability partner who will help you and encourage you; (5) Don’t become discouraged with occasional failures; instead allow them to motivate you further; (6) Don’t become proud or vain, but give God the glory. Psalm 37: 5 – 6, “Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.”

KIDS PAGE



(The answers appear at the bottom of the page. Use a piece of paper to cover them: NO PEEKING!)

1. What sign did God give us that he promised never to destroy the earth again with a flood?
2. Of what city was Nebuchadnezzar king?
3. Who got vomited up onto a beach?
4. Which disciple brought his brother to hear Jesus speak?
Andrew, Simon, James, John
5. What did Adam and Eve use fig leaves for?
6. What holiday celebrates Jesus' rising from the dead so that people who believe in Him can live forever?
7. How many times did God punish the Egyptians before Moses led the people out of Egypt?
8. Fill in the blank of Jesus' sentence with one word: "I am the vine. You are the _____"
9. What part of a man's body is named after a man in the Bible?
10. Fill in the following blank. Jesus said: "In my Father's house are many _____: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for."
11. What relative of Moses made a golden calf while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the Ten Commandments?
12. What does the book of Proverbs often say is more valuable than gold, silver or rubies?
13. How many stones did it take David to knock Goliath down?
14. In which book of the Bible do we read the story of the great flood?
15. Of wisdom, riches and honor, which two did God give Solomon although he didn't ask for them?

1. A rainbow (Gen 9:11-13)
2. Babylon (Dan 1:1)
3. Jonah (Jonah 2:10)
4. Andrew (John 1:41)
5. Clothes (Gen 3:7)

6. Easter
7. 10 (Ex 7-11)
8. Branches (John 15:5)
9. Adam's apple
10. Mansions (John 14:2)

11. Moses' brother (or Aaron) (Ex 3:1)
12. Wisdom (Prov 8:10-11)
13. 1 (1 Sam 17: 48-50)
14. Genesis (Gen 7-9)
15. Riches and honor (1 Kings 3:10-13)