

Seek

We *seek* God's presence in our lives, to help others in their relationship with God, and to strive to see God's work through all people.

Serve

We *serve* God through missions, encourage everyone on their spiritual journey, and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Share

We create opportunities for all to share their gifts and talents, and demonstrate openness, acceptance, and hospitality.

God With Others

Worship Schedule:

9:30 Contemporary at Clay Campus

11:00 Traditional at Clay Campus

Sunday School:

9:00 Youth Class at Clay Campus

9:30 Pre-K –6 at Clay Campus

Later Worship:

At 106 Church Street :

4:00 Traditional in North Syracuse

Sunday School:

4:00 During Worship

Watch for new location and Schedule change

Easter Flowers

Flowers can be ordered to memorialize or honor people in your life. This will be used in decorating our sanctuary celebration for Easter.

Please by Palm Sunday **April 9** fill out form in the bulletin and return to Bonnie Bergan or the Church Office place in Easter Flower envelopes outside of the Sanctuary. Make Checks payable to William Goike. The flowers can be taken home after Easter.



The Stepping Stone

April 2017



Pastor's Page

This has been a Lent where our worship services have focused on the last days of Jesus' life before his crucifixion. The stories are rich in theology and drama, and reveal some of the weaknesses of being human. I am looking forward to the Easter story where all the dynamics of betrayal, and illegal trials, and whims of crowds, and nails through flesh are seen as powerless.

The ways in which we think we have power are seen as weak in this story. Whether it be the unlimited commitment of the disciples to Jesus, to the power of acceptable killing, all is weak compared to the power of the love of God.

Today at the Clay Campus, the daffodils in the garden outside the church doors are growing. We've seen those sprouts before the arrival of the recent snow. They were covered up with winter that very slow in giving way to Spring.

There is an unrelenting drive for life in Spring. We are about to experience that power once again. The robins have made themselves known. The snow geese have been swarming over the Waterhouse Road. I have a video of my granddaughter stomping through mud puddles. The way that our location on this planet comes alive in Spring is the most perfect setting for our trying to understand the resurrection of Jesus. If we can grasp this truth this season in our worship and in our thinking, it just might change how the world has hope.

It is a hope that is not base in our own abilities, positive or negative, but hope in the love of and life of God that is more powerful than any human, or all of us put together.

May we get ourselves ready for Spring, new growth, but most of all, may we get ready for the power of the resurrection that brought Jesus from the tomb. That power can do the same for you and I. In this life, and in the life to come.

Rev. Bradford Hunt

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2: Matthew 26:36-46 is where Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane, and prays. We will celebrate communion on this day. Prayer, including creating prayer cards will be part of this worship.

April 9: Palm Sunday: We will have palms for the worship, but the focus of the Sunday will be the arrest of Jesus, the trials, and the crucifixion. We will leave the sanctuary in darkness.

April 13: Holy Thursday: Once again we will gather at Clay for a Soup and Sandwich supper at 6:00. After the supper we will climb the stairs to the upper room, where we will remember Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet as we wash hands. We will enter the sanctuary where Jesus and the disciples arrive, and share in communion.

April 14: Good Friday: At 8:00 we will gather at the Clay Campus to hear the story in song. Our musicians will lead us through the story in song. The worship will end in drama, and in darkness.

April 16: Easter! We will begin in darkness, and then begin to celebrate the amazing power of the love of God. There will be a tomb that will be dismantled during the worship. We will celebrate the resurrection in many different ways.

April 23: John 20: 19-31 is the scripture for the day. This is the story of Thomas and how he doubted the resurrection of Jesus.

April 30: Luke 24: 13-35 is the story of two of the disciples and how they encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It is a great post-resurrection story.

Worship Planning Days:

Sunday April 2 @6:30 & Monday, April 17@ 6:30 & Sunday April 30 @ 6:30

Everyone is welcomed to come plan the following two weeks of worship.

Sunday Schools

Our Sunday Schools learned more about Jesus' life and the days leading up to Easter. April will continue the lessons about Holy Week and then the events that immediately follow Easter.

Karenni Sunday School

The Karenni children had a competition to see who could memorize a Bible verse selected by their music leader. One Sunday in March all who wanted to stood in front of the congregation and recited the memorized verses. They did a great job. They continue to enjoy challenging each other and working with each other on the study sheets. Many Sundays they never even get to the craft. We had to say goodbye to one of the children as she moved across country with her family.

Sudanese Sunday School

The Sudanese children also enjoy the worksheets but want to work on the crafts. We spend more time with them singing children's Bible songs and talking about the lessons.

Clay Sunday School

We have a number of children who attend church in Clay and come to Sunday School and or nursery. We have been working on the same lessons that the other Sunday School classes have. Chelsea Foley has been helping out both on the Sunday School and nursery to make this group a success. There are Sundays when we have as many as 10 children and Sundays when we have as few as two. Sunday School is a combination of lesson, workbooks and crafts. We also make sure the children have time to play and often have a snack before it's time to go to church for Children's time.

FAMILY LENT EVENT

The Family Fun Lent Event was enjoyed by those who came. Families made boxes in which they will collect food for area food pantries as a way of giving during Lent. They also made crosses to be used as a focal point for family prayer. They made a chain that had links for every day during Lent. Each link has a task or some activity that would help them to learn more about their Faith during Lent. Families also had a chance to make pretzels which remind us of arms folded in prayer. Information and suggestions for Lent were sent home with the families. The evening of crafts was followed by a pancake and sausage supper. A big thank you to all who participated and were a part of making the event a success.

Druss Kususi

Druss Kususi was back and active again for the month of March. We worked on various skills including math, reading and map skills and cooking.

Children continued cooking and baking cupcakes, salad, and pizza. The leftover salad was saved for the following day when one of the children's birthdays was celebrated by the community after worship. The leftover pizza was sent home to parents who weren't present and some of the other Druss Kususi kids who didn't make it. A big thanks to Debbie Riggall for always providing a fun, learning cooking project for the kids.

Some family members who aren't a part of Druss Kususi join us regularly as we cook and learn. It's great for the kids to have the opportunity to see the older kids and adults are willing to work on and improve their skills.

We can always use donations of juice boxes – 100% juice – preferably 6 oz or bigger, and granola bars or pop tarts. If you are interested in being involved with the program please contact Kathy LaDuca.



Beautiful Mess Ministries Presents

Worship Night

Come Learn About

Be The Change

Weekend of music and Service

Music By:

Beautiful Mess

Saturday , April 8th

Faith Journey United Methodist Church

6:00—8:00 pm

Free and family friendly

More info: www.beautifulmessministires.com

Family Holy Week Event

The next event will be the Family Holy Week Event which will be held on Palm Sunday, April 9 at 5:00pm. We will be learning and experiencing more about this most sacred week of the church year. The event will include an egg hunt – eggs will contain symbols of Holy Week and will be followed by a meal. Please watch the bulletin for more information.



Southern Sudan Health Projects:



It Was a Major event!

On Tuesday, March 28, folks gathered for food, and to hear about the Southern Sudan Health Project. Majer, who has returned to Syracuse from South Sudan for a while, shared much about the project. Majer was a supervisor of the project for a number of years.

There were many churches represented in this event. Fayetteville UMC, St. Paul's UMC, Geneva UMC, Sandy Creek UMC, Journey of Faith UMC, and, of course, Faith Journey UMC.

Majer talked about the dedication of the 8 Home Health Promoters, and the diseases that they address every day. He shared much about life in South Sudan.

Thanks to all who made the event possible, including Kathy Snyder who put together a team to host the covered dish supper, and all who were able to bring food.

Food Pantry

For the Month of April Faith Journey United Methodist Church is collecting Paper Products for the Food Pantry at St. Rose of Lima in North Syracuse .



Empty Laundry Detergent Bottles

We are Collecting Empty laundry detergent bottles for St. Rose of Lima food pantry. They will refill the bottles with home made detergent and give them out in their food pantry.



NEW BUILDING

The Cradle and Beyond Board and the Trustees as well as the Ministries Council have been working to calculate the best way to move forward. A conclusion has been reached, and we are moving forward with repairs. Our next step is securing funding so we can grant the contract for the asbestos removal. It is hoped that this will happen as quickly as possible.

The removal of the asbestos will nearly clear old the Animal hospital part of the building, and some of the adjoining house. The roof will then be repaired, and then we can reconstruct the inside. It will take extensive work and volunteers to make the building into the new Cradle and Beyond location, as well as a place for a new additional worship service.

This is not a small project for Faith Journey, yet it is a powerful step forward. It is not a project for a declining congregation, but one that risks to move forward in mission and ministry for the present age.

What for more information, and maybe, just maybe, we will open this summer



New Tables

Thanks to the Mary Circle for their donation of 7 new tables for the fellowship hall.!

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Druss Kususi Tutoring 9:00 am
2 Catalyst Worship Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship 4:00 pm Worship Planning 6:30 pm	3 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am Southern Sudan Health Projects Meeting 11:00 am Trustee Meeting 6:30 pm	4 Lenten Study 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm	5 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am	6	7 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am Gambler's Anonymous 7:00 pm	8 Druss Kususi Tutoring 9:00 am Beautiful Mess Concert 6:00 pm
9 Catalyst Worship Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship 11:00 am Traditional Worship 4:00 pm	10 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am	11 Lenten Study 6:30 pm	12 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am	13 Holy Thursday 7:00 pm	14 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am Good Friday 8:00 pm	15
16 Catalyst Worship Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship 11:00 am	17 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am Worship Planning 6:30 pm	18 Finance Team 6:30 pm	19 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am	20	21 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am Gambler's Anonymous 7:00 pm	22
23 Catalyst Worship Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship 11:00 am	24 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am	25 Cradle & Beyond 10:00 am	26 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am	27	28 Little Steps Preschool 9:30 am Gambler's Anonymous 7:00 pm	29 Druss Kususi Tutoring 9:00 am
30 Catalyst Worship Service 9:30 am Traditional Worship 11:00 am						

North Syracuse New Location:

We are awaiting final approval and agreements to move to the Pitcher Hill Community Church for our worship. Plans are underway to have lunch at the church Sundays at noon, with worship to begin at 12:30. The church is located at the corner of Bailey and Buckley roads.

Plans are to move our piano, and communion table, as well as our hymnals to the new location. We are excited about the possibilities to move forward with United Methodism in North Syracuse.

Although no papers have been signed at this writing, everything seems to be moving forward. Watch for more information concerning the change of location.

Be The Change

Weekend of Music and Service

Friday ,April 28th Colton Dixon Concert at The Gathering Place

Price \$20 Youth Group \$15

Saturday , April 29th

Serving Our Neighbors

Over 15 service projects , Ministering to Refugees, The Hungry, Veterans and Many More Serving alongside local non-profits

For Tickets and Volunteer/Service information Visit:

www.beautifulmessministries.com/bethechange



Lay Servant Ministries

Two new classes are listed below, a Basic Lay Servant's Course held at **BOWENS CORNERS UMC** and the Advanced "You Can Preach" class at **LITTLE UTICA UMC**.

Advanced Lay Servant Class, April 23 - May 23

"You Can Preach"

At **LITTLE UTICA UMC** - 1459 Lamson Road, Phoenix NY.

This is a 5-week course starting April 23 at 1 pm. Last class is Sunday May 23. Each class starts at 1 pm and ends at 3:30 pm. You must attend every class.

Please fill out the application mail that to Don Day, address is on the application along with your \$10. Order you book before coming to class.

There will be a welcoming lunch provided so come hungry. The class will be open to the first 15 people who register.

New Windows have been installed!

The first set of windows have been installed at the Faith Journey building. The 5 upstairs windows on the road side of the building have been replaced with triple pane Comfort windows.

The next set of windows are the back side of the upstairs which include 7 windows. Arrangements are being made to install these windows.

The 5 windows that are in the fellowship hall will be the third phase of the project. As yet, the funds have not been received to complete this set of windows. As of this writing, \$1908.00 is needed to complete the project.

Many of the funds received have been given in memory of Jerry Jordan. The proceeds from the chicken barbecue money of which Jerry was a part of the group that started those fund raisers, has also helped us towards the goal of having the windows completed.



Announcing Our 61st **Grandma's Old-Fashioned** **Roast Beef Dinner**

Saturday, April 22, 2017 4:00 pm 'til all are served

Menu:

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Vegetables
Tossed Salad
Rolls & Mixed Breads
Homemade Pie or cake

Donations:

Adults: \$12.00
Sr. Citizen:(65+): \$11.00
Children: (Ages 6-12): \$4.00
Five and under: **Free**

FAITH JOURNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8396 Morgan Road, Clay, New York 13041

(Located between Route 31 and Wetzel Rd.)

#315- 652-9186 or 315-458-0890-fjoffice@fjumc.org - www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumc