

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

North Syracuse Worship:

At 605 Bailey Road

12:30 Traditional in North Syracuse

Pitcher Hill Community Church

Office Location:

8396 Morgan Road Clay NY 13041

Contact Information:

Phone 315-652-9186 or

315-458-0890

Email: fjoffice@fjumc.org

Website: www.fjumc.org

Faith Journey UMC Staff:

Pastor Rev. Bradford Hunt

Kelly Kremin– Administrative Assistant

Kathy LaDuca– Christian Education

Jennifer Dodge-Preschool Teacher

Musicians: Maryna Mazhukhova,

Daniel Williams , Tim Ehrhart

Custodian– Sean Townsend



The Stepping Stone

August 2017



Pastor's Page

It was the summer of 1979. Four of us had just rented a house in Durham, North Carolina. We were Divinity students, and the house was an old parsonage that belonged to the United Methodist Church next door. They were good to us. The rent was very low.

The previous students were not so good to us. They left the place an awful mess. We cleaned and cleaned, and painted the interior of the house. There was this dead plant hanging in the window. At least I thought it was dead. I was going to throw it out. Peter, one of the students, protested saying that it was good. I put it in his room, knowing that it wouldn't be long before it would be tossed.

Two years later, when we were packing to go back to different states, he gave me the plant back. It was doing very well. I still have it. Every time he has visited over the past 36 years, I have shown it to him.

Well, I don't keep it at the parsonage. It's at church in Clay. At Easter, it was part of the group of plants that made up the worship center in Clay. It stayed in the dark sanctuary for months. The leaves began to fade and die. Something was doing some damage. So, I took the bad leaves off. I put it between the entrance doors at the Clay Campus. I took more bad leaves off. Actually, every leaf was bad, and every leaf was removed.

It is doing very well.

For me, the plant is a symbol of hope. Hope for a dead plant. Hope for a couple of Divinity students about to spend their years serving declining churches. Hope for every church building it has been in. And for 2017, hope for the ridding of deterioration, and for new growth. It is, if you know this story, a continuing symbol of Easter and resurrection. I am enjoying watching the new growth, and the new life for the old plant.

Pastor Page continued

Peter is retired in Colorado and growing food for the hungry in his community. It is a major project. Maybe someday he'll see this old plant again. He'll smile as he always does, and we will quietly remember we serve the One who always brings hope to the world.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 6: Sins of Summer #3: (It has to do with eating.) The scripture is from Matthew 14:13-21. This is the story of Jesus trying to be alone, and ends up being with thousands and thousands of people. Then he feeds them. Communion will be celebrated on this day.

August 13; Kathy LaDuca will be leading this worship service.

August 20: Sins of summer #4: (It has to do with trying to make Jesus the way you want him to be) Matthew 14: 21-28 is the scripture. This is the story of Peter trying to correct Jesus. Guess who it is that really gets corrected....and gets molded into something greater. This is Tim Ehrhart's last Sunday with us, and Maryna is back from Belarus.

August 27: Sins of summer #5 (It has to do with the body) Romans 12:1-8 is the scripture for the day and explains how we are to work together, in all humility. Being connected makes all the difference.

Worship Planning Days:

August 6 and August 20 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed to come plan the following two weeks of worship.

Methodist From Around the World

July 16, 2017



A circle of nearly 150 people pray before sharing an amazing variety of foods.



Linda Raulli helps the kids with a craft



Ladder ball was a great hit, and was a new game to most

This guy is lucky he couldn't fly the kite— it may have carried him away.

Thanks to Steve Pierce for an amazing grand finale.



District Events

1st Annual Golf Tournament to Benefit Delaware Elementary School Students, August 13

At 1:00 pm at Foxfire Golf Course in Baldwinsville, 1 Village Blvd., Baldwinsville. Fellow Methodists, consider sending a foursome from your church to have fun, enjoy fellowship, and support **BELLEVUE HEIGHTS UMC's** "Blessings in a Backpack" mission project. Last September BHUMC members provided 50 students with backpacks and by the end of the school year had grown their program to serve 127 students! Their goal is to serve every one of the nearly 500 students at the school. Please come out to the golf course for a good time in support of a great cause. For more information and to sign up please contact Steve Mattice, BHUMC Lay Leader and BIAB Golf Tournament Director, at 315-263-2104. Post this [flyer](#) at your church!

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, September 7!

Pastors: Thursday, September 7, District Clergy Day at the United Methodist Conference Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd. in Liverpool, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Please send a confirmation of your attendance to crossroadsdistrict@unyumc.org

Pastors and Laity: Thursday, September 7, Laity Session at the United Methodist Conference Center, 7481 Henry Clay Blvd., Liverpool, from 7 - 8:30 pm.

Mary Circle Picnic

The Mary Circle will be having their annual picnic on August 10th at the Clay Campus .It is a bring a dish to pass and it will be at 12:00 noon. All Faith Journey women are welcome to come to the picnic.

Calendar: Meeting

August 1— 11:00 Southern Sudan Health Projects Meeting at Clay Campus - 6:30 Cradle & Beyond with Sub Trustee Meeting at 900 Main Street (New Building)

August 8— 6:00 SPRC

August 10—12:00pm Mary's Circle Picnic at Clay Campus —All women of Faith Journey are invited to attend.

August 12—11:00 to Sold out Chicken BBQ at Clay Campus

August 22— 6:00 Food & 7:00 Flick

August 28— 6:00 Little Steps Meeting

August 29— 10:00 Cradle & Beyond Meeting at Plank Road Apartments- 6:30 Finance Team

August 30— 6:30 Trustee Meeting at Clay Campus

Madison Village School Supply Party

On **Friday, August 25th** we will host the 3rd annual School Supply Party at Madison Village. This is a community outreach project in our own community, where the need is great. The Madison Village management welcomes the event and allows us to use their clubhouse free of charge. We bring in pizzas for dinner and then play games where the children can win school supplies. **The event will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

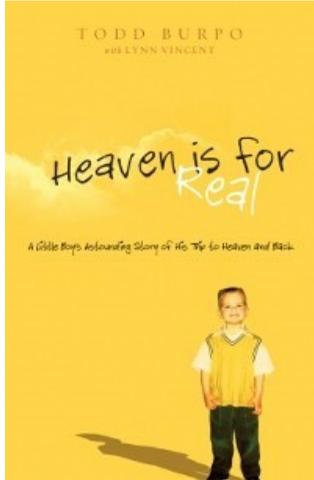
We can use help to publicize the event the week of the 25th and then we need helpers to run the games and serve food that evening. If you can participate in this event, please leave a message in the church office or with Linda Raulli (315-622-4130). Donations are needed.

Linda Raulli

Food & Flick

August 22

6:00 Bring a dish to pass supper 7:00 Movie
"Heaven is for Real"



Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back is a 2010 *New York Times* best-selling Christian book written by Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent. It was published by Thomas Nelson Publishers. The book documents the report of a near-death experience by Burpo's three-year-old son Colton. The book recounts the experiences that Colton relates from visits which he said he made to heaven during a near-death experience.

Food Pantry Contribution:

For the month of August Faith Journey United Methodist Church is collecting canned chicken for the Food Pantry at Sacred Heart Church.



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.



The New Building

Progress is being made as the asbestos is being removed. In the process, more work needed to be done by the company removing the asbestos. Although it has been slow, the building inside is looking better and better.



Volunteers have removed items, and other small projects. As soon as the company leaves, we will begin to redesign and rebuild the building. It will take much work and time and money. But, we are excited about the possibilities.

We are still selling notes to the congregation. So far, we have borrowed from the members of the congregation \$12,000. Faith Journey pays 3% interest.

With the purchase of the building, and anticipated work that needs to be done, the estimate is about \$200,000.

We are heading towards an intense time of reconstruction. As soon as the company has completed its work, and the roof is repaired, we will need many people to get the project completed.

There will be a major celebration when we can reopen the Cradle and Beyond ministry.

We will also be creating a new worship. If you are interested in creating this new worship, contact Rev. Hunt.

Southern Sudan Health Projects:

Abraham will soon be on his way back home to continue his work. His planned trip to Syracuse did not go well. Not only was his request for a visa rejected, he became deathly ill. He has been away from family and his work as a Home Health Promoter for all this time.

The medical bills piled up, and SSHP was able to pay them. However, they depleted our resources. Funds are very much needed to replenish so that we can continue to pay the wages.

A couple of concerts are being planned as fundraisers. Watch for more information to come.

Much thanks goes to Shannon and Mary for their amazing work in creating a video about the project. To see the video, go online to the Upper New York Conference of the UMC, search "Southern Sudan Health Projects" and click on the address for the video.

It is amazing.

Please keep Abraham and all of the Health workers in your thoughts and prayers. It is difficult work when there is so much fighting and destruction taking place.



9-11 Concert

The next 9-11 Memorial concert will be held at Faith Journey's Clay Campus on September 10, at 2:30 PM. John Harnois has been organizing these concerts since 2003. Everyone is invited again this year, to come and remember and listen to some wonderful music.

The Endowment Fund:

Faith Journey continues to seek additions to our Endowment Fund. Presently, there is about \$83,000 in the fund. About two thirds of the funds generate interest that goes to the budget, and about 1/3 is returned to build up the principle. It is a great way to contribute to the ministry of Jesus through Faith Journey for the next 100 plus years!

A note from the Memorial Committee

The Memorial committee would like to give thanks to those who gave the most recent contributions to the Memorial Fund. These gifts were given in memory of Ron Sharp.

We remember Ron worshiping with us, making his quiet jokes, and being a great person of faith.

Ron's family has chosen from the Faith Journey "Wish List" to use the funds received so far, for landscaping around our new entrance at Morgan Road.

Chicken BBQ

At Faith Journey United Methodist Church August 12

Opens at 11:00am

Prices: \$8 Dinner includes 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, beans and dinner roll \$6 1/2 Chicken



Sunday Schools

During July we studied Elijah, Jonah and Elisha who were speakers for God. August's theme is "God Chooses Joshua."

Karenni Sunday School:

The Karenni class meets at about 11:15. This gives the class time to hear the lesson work on the booklets and enjoy the craft. The work booklets continue to be a fun way the children enjoy challenging each other. Children have the opportunity to choose whether they want to continue working in their booklets or do the craft after they have done a few sheets in the booklets.

New World Ministries Sunday School:

This group continues to have a wide age span with the two youngest children being 2 and 3 and the oldest typically being in 7th grade. We often sing with this group. There were some great songs for Jonah. The last few weeks the older kids have been challenging each other with sheets from the workbooks. They have great fun. The younger children like to do the crafts and often ask to have them hung up from the ceiling in the classroom so that everyone can see them!

Clay Sunday School:

The Clay Sunday School has different children attending almost every week. We enjoy bible Stories and worksheets and crafts and also have play and snack time. Most of the children who participate in Sunday School are school age however, younger children are always welcome in Sunday School as well as nursery. All of the children who attend Sunday School at Clay have the opportunity to join the congregation for Children's time and the last song known commonly known as the 'tambourine song'.

Druss Kususi

Druss Kususi completed the season in June. We will continue again after the school year starts. Parents of the younger children continue to ask that we work on skills so we are going to need some new workbooks – especially math – for these children.

We are hoping to work with the older children on life skills. Most children – let alone children of refugees – don't know how to balance a budget, use a checkbook, debit card, create a weekly menu and buy food, be aware of dangers to younger children they are responsible to watch etc.

We will also continue with the cooking projects as this incorporates reading, measuring and cooking skills. The more familiar the children become with various foods and their preparation the more they will enjoy cooking at their homes.

We have the following needs for our start-up in the Fall – gift certificates to Five Below, Ollie's, Price Chopper, Wegmans, or Walmart. Paper plates, napkins, plastic silverware (the sturdy kind), tissues, juice boxes (100% juice and the larger size please), pop tarts, and granola bars. You are also welcome to donate cash as meals

Tim Ehrhart and Megan Smith to Marry.

Time Ehrhart is our musician for the 9:30 worship. However, his last Sunday with us is August 20.

On September 3, Tim and Megan will be married in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This will begin a new life for them.

We wish them the best.

A celebration of Tim's time with Faith Journey will be held on August 20, at the Clay Campus, following the 9:30 worship.