

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

Food Pantry Contribution:

For the month of July Faith Journey United Methodist Church is collecting canned fruit for North Syracuse Christian Church Food Pantry.



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 Stepping Stone

July 2017



Pastor's Page

We must always have in mind as followers of Jesus those who have been set aside for whatever reason. It is what we are called to do. In as many ways as we can. Often it takes an awareness of need, and a call to the culture to care.

Housing for those in need has always been something I have had the opportunity to be part of. A place to live still is a challenge for those on the lower economic brackets of our culture. It has been a joy to have a supporting role in some of the institutions providing for housing over the years.

When I was appointed to the Brasher Falls, North Lawrence and Buckton churches, I was able to be part of the board for a home for recovering Alcoholics.

When I was appointed to Lowville and Martinsburg, I was able to help administer a HUD (Housing and Urban Development) grant for the village of Lowville. We were able to fund repairs to the worst of homes in that village.

When I was appointed to the Utica and Whitesboro churches, I was able to become part of the Oneida Habitat for Humanity, and eventually its president.

Now, as your pastor in North Syracuse and Clay, I have been for many years a part of board for the Housing Authority of North Syracuse. This group administers HUD funding of low income persons and families primarily in North Syracuse and the CNS school district. Presently, there are 243 families being helped, and 187 on the waiting list.

It is amazing to me how widespread the need is for those in the lower economic brackets. If there was more money available, even more families could be helped.

No culture or economic system is perfect. There are always those who seem to be left out. However, as people of the faith, we need to always have in mind a vision of perfection, with a community that is as Jesus would have it.

Our ministry as Faith Journey UMC, is to continually work to influence and make this perfection to come about. I worry about a political climate that doesn't always have those set aside as a concern. Our work as followers of Jesus is a challenge. When in little ways or big ways, we meet that challenge, it makes all the difference in the world. One life at a time.

-Rev. Bradford Hunt

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 2: Guest worship leader Kathy LaDuca Matthew 10:40-42

July 9: Guest worship leader Kathy LaDuca Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16: Matthew 28: 16-20 will be the scripture for the day. It is the Great Commission. Tina Ngyuen and church leader from a church in Vietnam, Ruth, will speak.

July 23: *Sins of Summer worship #1: Exodus 20:8-11. This is one of the commandments used by the people led by Moses. This worship will be designed to have us enjoy God.

July 30: *Sins of Summer #2: Genesis 1-2:4 will be the scripture. It is the story of creation and how we are to enjoy this creation we are placed in.

*The sins summer is an old tradition of Rev. Hunt of sharing good natured rules of how to make the most of this summer season. An example of an often-used sin is described in this way: "if you do not watch a sunset for a long time on a summer evening, it is a sin."

Worship Planning Days:

July 9 and July 23 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcomed to come plan the following two weeks of worship.

Druss Kususi

Druss Kususi ended June 10th. We talked about what the children were going to do during the summer to continue to challenge themselves and keep up their skills. Some of them will be attending summer school.

On the 10th we created picnic packets by enclosing a hamburger or hotdog, potatoes, and veggies in foil and baking them. We had lemonade and pudding. We worked on putting together all the puzzles that are in the cabinet in order to determine which ones had missing pieces. We were even able to locate some of the pieces!

As they were leaving we gave them gift bags to take home for the summer. They included books to read, an appropriate grade level workbook, a puzzle, an outdoor toy, a game, markers, other activity books and a copy of the Druss Kususi cookbook for each child with the hopes that they will try some of the recipes when they get home. The cookbooks were a big hit with the children reading through the recipes and remembering when they made each entry.

Druss Kususi will continue again in the Fall after school starts. A big thanks to Linda Raulli and Debbie Riggall for all their hard work with the kids as well as to people who have subbed and all those who contributed food, money, gift cards, and items for the gift bags given to the children for Christmas and at the end of the year. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Chicken BBQ

At Faith Journey United Methodist Church July 8

Opens at 11:00am

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



Sunday Schools

During June we talked about courageous people including the disciples and Pentecost, a Courageous Queen, Courageous Friends and Courageous Daniel as we take a look at some Old Testament stories. Sunday School does not take a break for the summer. We have classes throughout the summer. The curriculum is designed with this model in mind so that the children have the opportunity to learn more of the Bible stories throughout the year. During July we will be studying Elijah, Jonah and Elisha.

Karenni Sunday School

The Karenni class is back to meeting earlier- nearer to 11:15 which gives us plenty of time to read the lesson and work on worksheets. The work booklets continue to be a fun way the children enjoy challenging each other. Most of the children are able to find something they really look forward to now that they have time to do the workbooks and the craft if they choose. The great part about the work booklets is that we can work on incorporating sheets for children at all levels and also sheets that are based on some of the skills they use in school such as math. Word searches, find an object in the picture and mazes are some of the favorites.

Sudanese Sunday School

The Sudanese 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 and having worksheets that appeal to a wide variety of ages helps. Even some of the oldest children will sometimes do the craft – such as last Sunday when we were discussing Daniel and the Lion’s den and everyone had to make a lion mask and then try them on! They won’t forget the lesson if they have the opportunity to do create something they think is special.

Clay Sunday School

The Clay Sunday School has different children attending almost every week. We enjoy 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’.

“Methodists From Around The World”

July 16 at Andy’s Camp*

2:00 Opening, and then the games begin! 5:00 Dish to pass supper. A Gas grill will be available 7:00 Worship, with special effects to follow This is our Third Annual “Methodists From Around the World Gathering. “ Five congregations come together to organize this event:

The Lao Westover UMC, in Johnson City, Karenni Good News and New Hope UMC in Mattydale, Nepali Immanuel UMC in Mattydale, New World Ministries in Mattydale, Faith Journey UMC

This gathering of United Methodist churches made up of people from different countries around the world, gather together for fun, food, and worship.

Each year this event grows and is a delight to share in this time together.

Everyone is invited to attend this event

Evangelism workshop

Leader: Sean Chanthasone

July 20, 7:00

Sean was born in Laos, but was in what he calls a concentration camp as a youth. One day he left his family and escaped to Thailand. It is a long story of dealing with authorities and being taken in by a Christian missionary.

Sean’s is a long story, but he ended up in Johnson City as a United Methodist pastor, serving one of the few Lao United Methodist Congregations in the country. Having me Sean on a flood recovery mission trip to the church in Johnson City, Sean shared his passion for starting a church in Syracuse. With the help of the UNY Conference, Sean became staff of our congregation with the purpose of starting a new congregation. He worked with the Lao congregation, but they were not receptive. He became acquainted with the Karenni people, and then was able to start a church.

Sean serves on the Asian Caucus of the United Methodist Church, and has served as its leader. With his United Methodist contacts around the country, he continues to encourage the development of new congregations.

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Sean Story Continued

We at Faith Journey UMC, wish to grow each of our worship groups, and add a new worship in North Syracuse. We are not accustomed to help folks with basic or introductory Christianity.

Sean will come and share in his jovial style, what it takes to help people to grow in their faith through a worshipping congregation.

Plan to come and enjoy an evening with Sean, and to learn another aspect of helping others to grow in their knowledge and love of God,

Update on #7

Number 7 on our merger document is to redesign the church and grounds at Clay so it is no longer "Trinity" but Faith Journey, a new and different church.

In that process, there will be a new driveway to the facility, and the front of the church improved to provide better drainage. If you come to the Clay Campus, you will see all sorts of different colored markings. This is in preparation for the work to begin.

In addition to the driveway, there will be a very welcoming gateway to the church. This has yet to be designed. Stay tuned...

Update on #1

Number one on the merger document is a new Cradle and Beyond location, and a place for a new worship.

The 900 Main street location is now having its asbestos removed. This will take a few weeks, and then we will get the roof fixed and then we will rebuild.

There will be much work to be done to redo the building. We are looking to be in the building as soon as we can.

We will start with the Animal hospital part, and then move to the house.

In the meantime, we will also prepare ourselves for creating a new worship, another dimension of Faith Journey.

Get ready to clear your schedule to help out this venture as we move forward.



Southern Sudan Health Projects:

South Sudan has been in conflict since they first became a nation. The president and vice president are from two of the main tribes, and each has been vying for power. Conflicts have arisen throughout the country. In the southern part of the country where United Methodists were very active, and many new UM churches were established, the conflict has chased the missionaries out.

Famine is soon to be at a horrendous level, in this country that, if allowed to develop, could feed all of Africa.

Meanwhile, our Southern Sudan Health Project continues to work serving more than 1,000 people every month, according to the reports.

Abraham is one of our Home Health Promoters. As you may know, we have been trying to get him to this Syracuse area to tell the story of what is taking place with the project. Abraham traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, to get a visa to come to the US. He was staying with Majer's brother's friend, Philip. (Majer is one of the lost boys of Sudan who has overseen the workers, but is now living in Syracuse)

Abraham waited and waited for his appointment. He was denied a visa. Soon after that, Phillip found Abraham deathly ill. He could not speak or walk. He took him to one hospital that would not receive him because he was so sick. Phillip then took him to the better hospital that required \$500 to be admitted. Phillip raised the money. Abraham nearly died. The doctors thought there might be permanent damage, but then were able to treat him. He has been recovering well.

The \$2000 hospital bill had to be paid before Abraham could leave. Phillip raised funds from relatives and his church. It was a challenge to send the money to pay back the loans. Finally, we were able to do so.

Abraham is now going to visit his family in the refugee camp in Uganda. I can only imagine the time of his reuniting with his family after such an ordeal.

Please keep Abraham and the other Home Health Promoters in your prayers. And, of course, this has put a great strain on the finances of SSHP.

It is a privilege to be part of such an amazing story.

-Rev. Bradford Hunt

