

### 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

## Where will we worship at 10am on May 28?

The answer to that question, is that we don't know yet! However, we will have one worship service, that will be planned to be outdoors.

Last year we had a Sunday worship at Clay Town Park that was well received. We will do a similar thing on May 28. It will be at 10:30 am in the morning. It will be someplace different than our usual locations...

Watch for more information.



# The Stepping Stone

## May 2017



### Pastor's Page

It was a warm Wednesday afternoon, and I sat on the deck of our house, just sitting, watching the world. The hawk appeared, as it has for so many years. I call it Gertrude. Gertrude Hawk.



The sun shone, there were a few clouds in the sky, and I watched Gertrude fly. I've watched hawks fly before, but this time, as I watched, something was different. The hawk went into a stall, and dropped a little like a stunt plane. Later it soared, then folded its wings, and dove. It was amazingly fast, for maybe twenty feet, and then went back to floating. Then it continued to float, slowed, and then just dropped, wings stretched out, for a short distance. The hawk then moved to catch another thermal, and soared out of sight.

It was then that I realized this hawk was just playing in the sky on a warm spring day. It must have simply enjoyed being alive in those moments.

My grandson Aiden, who is nearly 10 months old, likes to grab a ball, and throw it. His father took him to the top of the stairs where he would throw the ball, and it would bounce down the steps where his mother would retrieve it. He was laughing and laughing, as he threw that ball again and again.

How we enjoy this life God gave us is very important. Hawks and babies take time from an intense life to just enjoy.

As humans and adults, we know that enjoyment can sometimes lead us into trouble. Searching for joy and release from the strains and stress of everyday life can lead to all sorts of problems. When it becomes a way of life to search out the latest self-serving joy, it can lead to selfish avoidance of responsibility.

But yet, we are called to enjoy this life. The old catechism taught that the chief end of humans, was to enjoy God forever.

May we take time to enjoy this life, to live deeply. May we embrace a joy of living that comes from our connection with God. A joy of living that is for this day and for all eternity. A joy that comes from using what God has given us. Whether it be like a ten-month-old throwing a ball down the stairs, or a hawk soaring on the thermals on a warm Spring day.

Rev. Bradford Hunt

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 7: John 10:1-10 This is a Description of Jesus being like a good shepherd. Our Spring Stewardship drive "Moving Ahead on the Faith Journey"

May 14: 1 Peter 2: 2-10 is a letter to the early Christians who were facing persecution and doubts. It is about building a life like building a building, beginning with a cornerstone. We will celebrate Mother's Day.

May 21: 1 Peter 3: 13-22 is a scripture that offers some practical advice for handling adversity, and for sharing the faith. This is our commitment Sunday for our Spring Stewardship Drive "Moving Ahead on the Faith Journey"

May 28: John 17:1-11. This scripture is part of a prayer, after the farewell discourse to the disciples before he was arrested. The prayer defines his purpose, and how it is to be carried out by the disciples, and we, the church. We will have one worship at 10:30

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## Worship Planning Days:

Sunday May 14 @6:30 & Sunday, May 28@ 6:30

## Faith Journey worship at Pitcher Hill Community Church

On April 9, we began worshipping at 12:30 at Pitcher Hill. The congregation and pastor have been very welcoming, and helpful.

Many gather at noon for food and fellowship, with worship beginning at 12:30.

Maryna and the North Syracuse choir offer the music.

The tall A-frame structure adds and airy feel to the worship.

Come and join us in this new setting!



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## The New building

The contract for the removal of asbestos should begin soon! Watch for more information.

This has been a long process, and our trustees have been working to proceed in the best way possible.

Once the asbestos has been removed, the renovation of the building will move along as quickly as possible. It is a major undertaking, and it will help us to grow and make the next step as Faith Journey.

When it is completed, we will restart sales for Cradle and Beyond, and we will create a new worship service!

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## FOOD PANTRY

For the Month of May Faith Journey is Collecting Canned Tuna for the food pantry at Brown Memorial United Methodist Church





The month of April has gone by quickly at Little Steps. The children learned about Easter and celebrating Jesus and new life. Students enjoyed an Easter egg hunt. We also had fun making handprint flowers and butterflies to decorate our classroom!

Now that the weather is getting warmer, we have been enjoying our playtime on the playground equipment outside. Thanks very much to those who are volunteering to maintain this area!

Kiera Williams

Little Steps Director/Teacher

## Windows are paid for!

The new windows in the education wing and fellowship hall are on their way! We have received enough funds to cover the cost of the new windows!

The first set of windows, the upstairs roadside windows, have been installed. Soon the other windows will be installed as well.

This will certainly decrease our heating bills, as well as keeping the church cooler in the summer.

Thanks to all who contributed to this project in memory of Jerry Jordan. Thanks to the funds given from the proceeds of the chicken barbecues. Thanks to everyone who helped make this project a success. And thanks goes out to Larry Hamlin of Faith Journey, who also happens to work at Comfort windows, for his gracious help in making this come about.

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat                                       |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
|  | 1<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am<br>Trustee<br>Meeting 6:30<br>pm                                | 2<br>SPRC Meeting<br>7:00 pm  | 3<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am  | 4<br>Worship at<br>Elderwood<br>10:00 am   | 5<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am<br>Gambler's<br>Anonymous<br>7:00 pm  | 6<br>Druss Kususi<br>Tutoring 9:00<br>am  |
| 7<br>Catalyst<br>Worship<br>Service 9:30<br>am<br>Traditional<br>Worship 11:00<br>am<br>Traditional<br>Worship 12:30<br>pm                                   | 8<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am   | 9   | 10<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am | 11<br>Worship at<br>Elderwood<br>10:00 am  | 12<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am<br>Gambler's<br>Anonymous<br>7:00 pm | 13<br>Druss Kususi<br>Tutoring 9:00<br>am |
| 14<br>Catalyst<br>Worship<br>Service 9:30<br>am<br>Traditional<br>Worship 11:00<br>am<br>Traditional<br>Worship 12:30<br>pm<br>Worship<br>Planning 6:30<br>. | 15<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am<br>Southern<br>Sudan Health<br>Projects<br>Meeting 11:00<br>am | 16  | 17<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am | 18<br>Worship at<br>Elderwood<br>10:00 am  | 19<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am<br>Gambler's<br>Anonymous<br>7:00 pm | 20<br>Druss Kususi<br>Tutoring 9:00<br>am |
| 21<br>Catalyst<br>Worship<br>Service 9:30<br>am<br>Traditional<br>Worship 11:00<br>am<br>Traditional<br>Worship 12:30<br>pm                                  | 22<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am<br>Little Steps<br>Meeting 6:00<br>pm                          | 23  | 24<br>Little Steps<br>Preschool 9:30<br>am | 25<br>Worship at<br>Elderwood<br>10:00 am<br>Ministries<br>Council<br>Meeting 7:00<br>pm | 26<br>Gambler's<br>Anonymous<br>7:00 pm   | 27<br>Druss Kususi<br>Tutoring 9:00<br>am |
| 28<br>Outside<br>Worship<br>Service 10:30<br>am  | 29  | 30<br>Cradle &<br>Beyond<br>Meeting 10:00<br>am<br>Worship<br>Planning 6:30<br>pm | 31   |  |   |   |

## Southern Sudan Health Projects:

Once again, Abraham, one of our Home Health Promoters in Malek, South Sudan, is attempting to make his way to Syracuse. We will see if he is able to get a visa, and when he then willing to travel. It is a difficult process, so we ask that you keep him in your prayers.

Those prayers will make you open to his presentations when he finally does make it to this area. We hope to have him visit many congregations, and raise more funds for this important project.

South Sudan is a troubled country, which makes it very difficult to get the pay to the Home Health Promoters. Still, they work every day to change the health of the people in their community.



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## 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.



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## Chicken BBQ



At Faith Journey United Methodist Church  
May 13

Opens at 11:00am

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

## “Moving Ahead on the Faith Journey”

In May we will be introducing a Spring campaign to update our financial commitment to the ministries of Faith Journey. In our first year as Faith Journey, we needed to use some of the investments to make ends meet. This year, we will attempt to come closer to our budget, and funding our ministries. As of this writing, about 10% of our budget is funded by investments, the principals of which cannot be used for budget items.

The campaign will begin on May 7. You will receive a letter next week with more information. Our commitment Sunday will be May 21.

Please take some time in prayer and understanding of our expanse of ministry to consider how you wish to make a commitment to the ministry of Faith Journey, or how to increase your giving.

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## The Endowment Fund of Faith Journey UMC

An Endowment Fund is a permanent fund that does not use the principal of the fund, but often uses interest from the fund for the use of the church.

The Faith Journey endowment fund continues to grow and use the proceeds. The fund came from the Andrews’ roots of Faith Journey UMC.

The Endowment Fund has a total, as of April 1, of \$84,808. Approximately 2/3 of the interest goes to support the Faith Journey budget, and 1/3 of the interest is returned for growth of the Endowment Fund.

You can always add to the endowment fund in honor or in memory of someone. You can add to it when things go well for you and you have funds available to add to the endowment fund.

Or, you may just give thanks for what God has called the church to do, and giving to the endowment fund continues to fund the ministries for years to come.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office, speak to Rev. Hunt, or ask a trustee.

North Syracuse New Location:



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