

Empty Laundry Detergent Bottles

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



Happy Thanksgiving



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

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Faith Journey UMC Staff:

Pastor Rev. Bradford Hunt
Kathy LaDuca - Christian Education
Jennifer Dodge - Preschool Teacher
Kristy Lee Witt - Preschool Teacher
Maryna Mazhukhova - Musician
Daniel Williams - Musician
Karolyn Thomas - Administrative Assistant
Custodian - Sean Townsend



The Stepping Stone

November 2017



Pastor's Page

Picture a Day With God...

At this writing, I have had the privilege of leading 4 of the neighborhood gatherings. We have two more to go. If you have not taken the opportunity to be part of one of these gatherings, the last one will be Saturday, November 11, 1pm, at the church, with Jane Cole hosting.

These gatherings are a great time of conversation and Bible study, and asking questions. As you may know, I ask the question of how they would "Picture a Day with God".

I savor each answer that is given. Each person, even though we are all of the same congregation, has a different answer. Each answer reveals a faith journey, a vision, a longing, and an intimacy with God.

This is the kind of faith that makes Faith Journey a church, not just a social club. This is the kind of faith that becomes the core of Faith Journey, and the direction for its future as we worship and consider all of God's people and creation.

This kind of idea of picturing a day with God has been in the forefront of my thinking for some time now. In our neighborhood gatherings, some have insisted that I give my answer. For this writing, I will give my thoughts.

First, I have so many ideas it is hard to define them. I think of a day with God. With Jesus. With the Holy Spirit. Each aspect of God has me picture a different kind of day. Which is to say, I could use not just a day, but a week. Maybe more. But on the other hand, as the scriptures say, no one who sees God can survive. But, then, we can imagine a day with Jesus as we consider how the scriptures describe his time on earth. Does this get confusing? Of course it does.

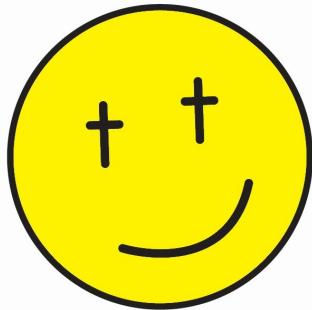
As we consider "picturing a day with God," we work to define who God is. This thinking should cause us to seek a greater understanding and a closer relationship with God. Which helps us to worship, and to be in mission, and to bring others to the faith, and makes us ever more generous in seeing that God's work is done. Which, is who we are as

Pastor's Page (continued from page 1)

Faith Journey.

And so, I leave you with this question for this moment in your life, "What do you think a day with God would be like?"

-Rev. Bradford Hunt



IT'S A ROARING
50'S NIGHT!

Saturday, November 18th

7 PM - 9 PM

Tickets:

\$5 each (pre-sale)

\$6 each (at the door)



Faith Journey United Methodist Church

8396 Morgan Rd

Clay NY 13041



Tom will once again come and share his talents with the area as he sings and portrays Elvis. Tom is one of the owners of Par-K Chrysler and Jeep dealership in Fulton. Tom is always busy with events, and has been very gracious in his support of the Southern Sudan Health Project in the past.

\$5 tickets are available at the church office, \$6 tickets are available at the door. Enjoy Root Beer Floats, Pizza, and more as you enjoy the music and dance the night away. Come and enjoy this fifties themed event and help support the SSHP!

For information and tickets call:

Faith Journey UMC at (315) 652-9186 or Rev. Elyse Skiles at (315) 207-2962

Druss Kususi

A program that tutors our New World Ministries children

Druss Kususi is well under way. We continue to work on skills with the younger children. We use workbooks and worksheets to accomplish this. We usually try to find holiday and season themed worksheets in Math and English which make the work more fun.

We are working with the older children on life skills. Recent discussions have been about going to college, options and financial aid. A mother of some of the children sat in and was very interested.

We are continuing with the cooking projects as this incorporates reading, measuring and cooking skills. Aluminum foil cheeseburger meals, a traditional Sudanese dish and peach cobbler have all been made and enjoyed by the group.

In December we will be putting together Christmas presents for each child. We would appreciate donations of gift certificates or monetary donations to help make this possible. Gift certificates to the Dollar Tree, Five Below, Ollie's and Barnes & Noble would be helpful.

Car Donation



Above: Majer with the donated vehicle

We offer thanks to the person who donated a 1996 Lexus to Faith Journey. We have since given the car to Majer, who is in the process of getting it on the road (and out of our parking lot).

Majer is one of the lost boys of Sudan who settled in Syracuse many years ago. He eventually attended Binghamton University and received a degree in geology. He then returned to South Sudan and to work for an oil company.

He also was the supervisor for our Southern Sudan Health Project for a number of years.

With the turmoil in South Sudan, he has placed his wife and children in a rental house in Uganda, and returned to Syracuse to find work and medical care. His health has improved since his arrival. He currently works 60 hours a week in a warehouse, stays with friends, and is trying to get things in order. Someone has to take him to work very early every morning.

This car will make life easier, and as he says and will enable him to get a better job.

He let his American license expire, which means he has to go through the licensing process before he can register the car. This is difficult with the hours he currently works.

We hope that this occasional ministry of Faith Journey will help.

Sunday Schools

During October the theme is From Shepherd to King, as such we learned all about David. During the month of November, the theme is The Wise King and we will be learning about Solomon.

Nepali Sunday School

Connie Clark works with the children during the earliest service at Mattydale for the Nepali congregation. There are approximately 15 children in that group. Some of them are quite young and do the coloring and craft and listen to the story. She uses the same curriculum we use for the rest of the classes. This class has a Christian Education person, parents and sometimes a teenager who help out. Connie leads the lesson and they help the children working on worksheets and doing the craft. This Sunday School happens while we are having worship and Sunday School at Clay.

Karenni Sunday School

The Karenni class meets at about 11:15 AM. There are between 10 and 12 in this group. We have some very tiny ones who come down for this class through elementary school. The class hears the lesson, works on the booklets and enjoys 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. Before they come down for Sunday School these children sing a song and recite a Bible verse for the congregation worshipping upstairs.

Sudanese Sunday School

The Sudanese group often sings before they hear the lesson. We have between 5 and 7 in this class and we are occasionally joined by one of the mothers. They enjoy the workbooks and the younger ones also spend time working on the craft. Since they are mostly all in school they are pretty self-sufficient when it comes to crafts.

Clay Sunday School

The Clay Sunday School has more consistently had one child attending, sometimes others show up and there are usually younger ones in the nursery. We enjoy spending time working on the worksheets together and doing the craft. We usually have time to play some games and have a snack as well as work on the Sunday School lesson.

90+ Years Gathering

On Friday, November 3, eight of our 90+ crowd gathered for a luncheon put on by the Connections group of Faith Journey. A great meal was had by all. Rev. Hunt then asked questions of faith of each of the eight. Each shared something about how they came to know God, or another expression of their faith. Those answers were very special.

Amid lively conversations, the group then decorated some pumpkins.

Thanks to the 90+ group for coming and making the day special.

Thanks to the Connections Group, and the kitchen help of Marcia and Dave Zogg, and Dorothy Mahoney.

The Connections Group visits shut-ins and elderly as a ministry of Faith Journey.



From Left to Right: Lucine Farling, Wilma & Bob Smith, Harold & Freida Bean, Betty Dunn, Eleanor Jones , Carol Gridley and Michelle Cloutier of the Connections Committee.

Back: Marge Strother & Yvonne Cloutier of the Connections Committee



Homer Gere

Why I am Giving a Gift to United Methodist Global Ministries



I have worshiped and enjoyed a relationship with God for 37 years first at Andrew's Memorial and now Faith Journey churches. It is here that my Pastor and fellow believers have been a part of my faith and personal joy to serve God.

I am grateful for the many ministries over these years where I have been able to reach out to people in need and share God's love. My story includes being a part of the Southern Sudan Health Projects, Red Bird Mission Trip, Hurricane Recovery, travelling to Costa Rica and serving our Westside Ministries at Brown Memorial UMC. I love the life and spirit that God has given to me.

A few years ago, I hosted a Global Ministries Missionary in my home for four days. His story and work in Africa made it tangible how we support God's works throughout the world. This motivated me to give a gift in my will. I decided to ask Reverend Hunt how to make this possible. He suggested that I talk to the Board of Global Ministries. This connection was informative and I was able to give a gift to further God's work in the area of developing projects. I sense God's gilding and love by giving to Global Ministries. I know my giving can only do good things for others. It is a blessing to be part of our connectional church. Each one of us, each church serves an important link with God's work and presence in the world.

I am glad to be a part of the Kingdom of God and respond to his love in the future.

By Carol Stott

Upcoming Holiday Worship

Thanksgiving Worship

Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 PM

We will gather at the Clay Campus for our annual Thanksgiving worship service. Our worship will center around an old harvest Psalm, Psalm 65.

The Karen and the Nepali congregations will be joining with us. They will bring their 'choirs' and Pastor Sai and Pastor Phillip will be sharing from their perspective, on giving thanks.

Refreshments with an "Apple" theme will follow the worship service.

Come and give thanks to God with Faith Journey, and with post refugees from Nepal and Burma.



Christmas Worship Services

The Christmas Worship services are still in the planning stages, but this is what we know so far:

Christmas Eve - Sunday December 24, 5:30 PM

Services will be held at Pitcher Hill (605 Bailey Road, North Syracuse). The Karen, Nepali, and New World Ministries have been invited to attend.

Christmas Eve - Sunday December 24, 7:30 PM

Services will be at the Clay Campus. Our Faith Journey traditions (we are 2 years old) will be part of the worship that evening.

With Christmas Eve being Sunday, we will also be worshiping in the morning and afternoon at our regular schedule.

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We invite you to make sure that your Christmas is a Christmas worthy of a follower of Jesus Christ.

Little Steps

Little Steps pre-school continues to shape the lives of some of the youngest in the community.

Check out the Thankyou chains that are in the process of adding links as each of the children consider what to give thanks to God for.

Soon there will be appearing a wish list made up of envelopes. Items on the wish list are for the Little Steps, with the price listed on the envelope. You may take the envelope, put the financial gift in it, and leave it at the church office or place in the offering on Sunday.

The New Building

900 N. Main St. /Near the Corner of Route 11 & Bear Rd.)

Work progresses on the new building! Every Thursday (well, maybe not Thanksgiving) and Saturday mornings from 9AM until noon are the regular work days. Other days work is also done.

The new electrical entrance is in. The place is almost completely gutted, and we are working to put a new roof over the old animal hospital and the garage. (The house roof is good) We are awaiting final architectural renderings, to be approved by the Town of Cicero so reconstruction can begin.

Thanksgiving Bags

Wegman's has once again donated 125 bags for Faith Journey to fill with food for folks at Thanksgiving time. Each bag has a list of items to be purchased, and an envelope asking for \$10 for the purchase of meat for the meal. If you have not taken a bag to fill, please do so. We ask for their return on Sunday the 12th.



November - December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12 5 PM - Stewardship Commitment	13 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps 10:30 AM - Southern Sudan Health Projects Meeting 7 PM - Committee to Re-Design Clay Building Mtg.	14	15 9 - 12 PM Little Steps	16 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 6:30 PM - Trustees Meeting	17 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous	18 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 7 PM - 9 PM - A Night with Elvis!
19 6:30 PM - Worship Planning	20 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps	21 7 PM - Thanksgiving Service	22	23  Happy Thanksgiving! <small>DownloadStep.com</small>	24 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous	25 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
26	27 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps 6 PM - Little Steps Committee Meeting	28 10 AM - Cradle & Beyond Committee Meeting (Dunkin Donuts - Rt. 11) 3 PM - 7 PM Blood Drive	29 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps	30 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	Dec 1 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous 7 PM - Concert @ Pitcher Hill*	2 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
3	4 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps	5	6 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Ministries Council Meeting	7 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	8 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous	9 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
10	11 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps	12	13 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps	14 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	15 9 - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous	16 9 - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 12: Matthew 25:1-13

This is our commitment Sunday for our "Picture a Day with God..." stewardship campaign. The scripture is the parable of the ten girls waiting for a wedding to begin.

November 19: Matthew 25:14-30

This is the parable of the three servants and their shrewdness about managing money. It is the story about being shrewd about the matters of helping others to connect with God and about sharing the love of God.

November 26:

The writer of Matthew reveals the judgement day and how God will judge. It reveals how we are to live our lives as servants of God from the depths of our heart. There will be a United Methodist Student Day Offering.

December 1st Concert

A concert will be performed by one of our musicians, Maryna Mazhukhova with the proceeds going towards the St. Rose Christmas Program. It will start at 7 PM and be held at Pitcher Hill Community Church located at 605 Bailey Rd in North Syracuse.