



Pastor's
Page



The Stepping Stone
February 2022

Grace goes the distance. It's not a trot or a sprint. It's a marathon that runs with us from the time of our conception and birth. From this day until eternity. Grace.



I still am not a runner unless chased by a bear. Even then, I fear my legs would give out and I would become a tasty meal for the old grizzly beast. It's not that I don't like the idea of being able to go far; it's I have never had the opportunity to learn how to stride and run while controlling my breathing and muscle movements. But, put me on a bike, and it's a different story.

I admire people who can run 26.2 miles in a marathon. That takes some doing. It takes conditioning and practice of running long and short sprints to get your body acclimated for the big run. If you doubt me, just ask Rev. Alan Kinney. Even at his *pristine* age, he still runs. Chances are, a bear is chasing him.

Where is God's will be taking you today? What about the church? What plans and visions can you see God bringing into fruition that you didn't see before?

The things of God are like conditioning for a marathon. You don't become proficient overnight. It takes time. It takes practice, and it must be done daily. This marathon, however, should not be seen as a chore but an opportunity to draw close to the heart of God. Reading the bible is vital for this type of conditioning, as is

praying. Praying is like breathing in and out the spirit of God. These two things are essential in the story of salvation which is capped off with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Friends, I am not perfect. I make mistakes and sin often. What separates my walk from most is my acts of repentance and seeking God's forgiveness. I would like to run a mile just once before I die. Maybe a 5k. I want the world to know I did it and didn't shy away from the challenge. Who knows, with the proper training, I might just run a marathon? Ok, let's be realistic; a mile will be just fine. You know I am not the great Rev. Kinney.

Maxie Dunam, the former president of Asbury Theological Seminary, once said, "God's will, will not take you where God's grace won't sustain you."

I believe the best days for Faith Journey are not behind us but are out in front of us. I believe that God has in store for us more than we can ever imagine. It's ours for the taking; we just need to close our eyes, open our hands, and receive the blessing. God continues to do great things with limited resources, and I believe that God wants us to succeed where we may or may not have in the past.

Runners don't look back. They keep their eyes trained on the prize that is before them. Looking to what is ahead, their stride changes, and their bodies adapt—focusing on what matters the most, finishing the race, and going home. None of us know how many more trips around the sun we have. Let's make this one count as if it were our last—God with God's grace and the blessing of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. RUN your race with dignity, pride, and honor. Above all, keep your eyes fixed on the cross of Jesus.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Daniel J. Bradley".

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

P.s. I want you to know that I am privileged to have Rev. Kinney as a friend and colleague, and I am thankful every time that he fills in for me when I am away. He will always run faster than me; perhaps he will escape the bear! God Bless, Alan.

What's Happening

February:

February 2nd - Groundhog Day

February 3rd - Dream Team Meeting, 7pm @ FJUMC

February 6th - Worship Planning after Service

February 8th - 12th - Valentine's Day Sale @ C&B 2.0

February 14th - Valentine's Day

February 17th - Make It Happen Meeting, 6:30pm @ FJUMC

February 18th - Memorial Committee Meeting, 11:30am @ FJUMC

February 21st - Presidents' Day

March 2nd - Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7pm @ FJUMC



JOIN US FOR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

7:00 P.M.

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return"
Ecclesiastes 3:20

FAITH JOURNEY UMC
8396 MORGAN RD. CLAY, NY 13041



UMCOR is on **Sunday, March 27, 2022** this year. Previously known as *One Great Hour Of Sharing*, this Sunday enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through worldwide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Also, UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster. Your sustaining gifts on UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere.



Do you want to sing or play an instrument?

We are welcoming anyone interested in singing or playing an instrument to join the worship team during 9:30 service. Practice is every Sunday morning at 9:00am in the sanctuary. Please contact Jake Melnyk at roadoutofhere@gmail.com for info.

MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle is on hiatus for the Winter Season.

Meetings will resume in a few months.



Cradle & Beyond 2.0

7778 Brewerton Road

Location:

7778 Brewerton Rd.
Cicero, NY 13039
(Across from the Coppertop
and next to Dunkin Donuts)

Store hours:

Tuesday 4 pm - 7 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm
Thursday 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Donation Drop-off :

Donations are accepted
Tuesdays from 9 am - 11 am
and any day/time the store is
open!



We have big things going on at C&B this month. The week of 2/8-2/12 we have a sale of 50% off everything red, white, pink (any or all colors just need to be included in the merchandise).

After meeting with the plumber on Friday evening, we have begun the process of incorporating the plumbing indoors versus outdoors which will save us some significant \$\$ as we won't have to run plumbing from the house basement to the driveway and cut into the driveway then repair it yay! The savings offers us the opportunity to raise the sorting room floor and run the pipes under the floor from the basement through the sorting room and into the store. If all works as planned we can cut into the two tile widths of the floor in the store on a Thursday evening, run pipe and re-cement on a Friday and be open again on Saturday! We are looking at affordable floor tiles to accent the repaired floor and the sorting room (it'll be beautiful)!



We have set up a display for the hats, mittens and scarf giveaway and had a great time sharing this mission provided to C&B by the Centerville Order of the Eastern Star! Please invite customers to take what they can use, could share with others or if they are walkers, they could take and leave in a tree on their walk as a way to 'pay-it-forward' to others. What doesn't get used will be brought to our friends (IMFK or Rise Above the Streets or the Neighborhood Church) in the city to give to those who need them.

We were able to get some 3 foot by 8 foot carpet runners for the main door. Mike talked with a Cintas guy at Novelis who changes out the uniforms and explained that we are wanting rugs for C&B (explained what we do) as people enter the store and asked if we could buy some from them.. he said they only rent but he could hook us up and brought us three carpets to keep! They clean up real great with that vacuum we have. God is Amazing and we're doing amazing things!!



February



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY - "A HEART FILLED WITH JOY"

"Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross."

- Hebrews 12:1-2



February - Happy Valentine's Day!

I hope you are having a happy and fun start to the New Year. We have had such an unpredictable last few years that I hope this year we can all breath a sigh of relief and feel at peace once again. Majority of Americans are fed up with the pandemic and I am getting fatigued over it too, but I remain positive and hopeful that a better year awaits us. With the month of "love" upon us, I hope you feel immense love and admiration around you and are blessed with moments of joy and happiness. Remember to reach out and tells those around you that you love them!

Did you participate in the Crop Walk or Turkey Trot in 2021 and enjoy helping the community while getting outside for some exercise? Great news, there's two more 5k races happening locally in February!



CUPID'S CHASE 5K

2/13/2022 - 10:00 AM



Fundraising to enhance the lives of people with developmental disabilities by supporting housing and employment.

Onondaga Lake Park,
106 Lake Drive, Liverpool NY

Visit allittakes.comop.org to register, donate and find out more information on this event.

12TH ANNUAL SUPER COUCH POTATO 5K



2/13/2022
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

\$25 + plus sign-up fee
Virtual Option Available

Come out and burn some calories before the big Superbowl game with family and friends! A portion of the race proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank.

Onondaga Lake Parkway
Syracuse, NY 13088



Visit runsignup.com to register for the race, access to packet pickup information or to donate.

BIBLE TRIVIA

Sleepers and Nonsleepers

1. Who had surgery performed on him while he slept?
2. Who was killed as he slept in the tent of Jael?
3. Who slept in the bottom of a ship as it rolled in a storm?
4. Who suggested to Jezebel's priests that Baal was sleeping on duty?
5. Who slept at Bethel and dreamed about angels?
6. Who slept at David's door while he was home on furlough?
7. Who could not sleep on the night after Haman built a gallows for hanging Mordecai?
8. Who had troublesome dreams that kept him from sleeping?
9. Who was visited by an angel of the Lord while sleeping?
10. Who slept while Jesus prayed in Gethsemane?
11. Who sneaked into Saul's camp while he was asleep?
12. Who spoke to Abram while he was in a deep sleep?
13. Who did not sleep while Daniel was in the lions' den?
14. Who slept through a haircut?
15. Who slept during a storm on the Sea of Galilee?
16. Who fell asleep during Paul's sermon and was later raised from the dead by Paul?
17. Who was sleeping between two soldiers when an angel came to release him?
18. Who was awakened from a deep sleep by an earthquake that toppled a prison?
19. According to Jesus, this person was not dead, but only sleeping. Who was it?
20. Who told Laban he had gone twenty years without a decent sleep?
21. According to Proverbs, what does it take for the wicked to sleep well?
22. Which epistle tells sleepers to rise from the dead?
23. Which epistle uses sleep as a metaphor for physical death?
24. What boy was called out of his sleep by the voice of God?
25. Which epistle urges believers to be alert, not asleep?
26. Who was in a deep sleep as the angel Gabriel explained a vision?

⇒ *Answers are located on the bottom of Page 10*



We are excited to announce Faith Journey UMC has successfully launched an APP and it's available to download now!

The application features information like monthly newsletters, food pantry support, worship schedule, calendar of events, quick access to social media pages, online giving and other pages for C&B 2.0 and SSHP.

There are two ways to get the app, 1. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or 2. submit your email address to receive a download link.

The link and QR code to download the Faith Journey UMC Application are below:

Website Link: <https://cms.instantapps.com/promo/u002232>

QR Code:



FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

February Scripture Writing Plan



What are Scripture Writing Plans?

Scripture Writing plans are something you can do every day and it will help you in your journey with God. Get your bi-

Each of the scriptures below takes ten minutes or less to copy out. Commit to spending ten minutes each day listening to God's voice and Connect with the word!

Day 1 - Lamentations 3:21-24

Day 2 - Galatians 2:20-21

Day 3 - Hebrews 12:6-9

Day 4 - Psalm 103:15-18

Day 5 - Proverbs 3:11-12

Day 6 - Jeremiah 31:2-3

Day 7 - Ephesians 1:3-6

Day 8 - Exodus 34:6-8

Day 9 - Psalm 107:19-22

Day 10 - Nehemiah 1:4-6

Day 11 - 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5

Day 12 - Joshua 23:11-13

Day 13 - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Day 14 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Day 15 - 1 John 4:9-11

Day 16 - Mark 12:28-31

Day 17 - Ephesians 5:19-21

Day 18 - Matthew 5:43-47

Day 19 - 1 Thessalonians 4:19-21

Day 20 - 1 Peter 4:7-11

Day 21 - 1 Corinthians 12:24-25

Day 22 - Colossians 3:8-10

Day 23 - James 4:11-12

Day 24 - Romans 15:5-7

Day 25 - Romans 12:14-16

Day 26 - Micah 6:6-8

Day 27 - Ephesians 5:25-30

Day 28 - 1 Corinthians 13:13

ble out and write out the scripture for that day. It is a proven fact that when you write something down it resonates more fully than just reading it. So, write it out and speak those words into reality, this will also help with memorization of the word of God and your daily walk with Him.

THEME:

*Because
of
Love*





THE TIME TO
GIVE BLOOD
IS NOW

Warm their hearts
this winter.

Give blood.



Dangerously Low Blood Shortage

The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. The dangerously low blood supply levels have forced some hospitals to defer patients from major surgery, including organ transplants. Please consider donating if you are able too, the Red Cross could really use your support!

Visit redcrossblood.org to book an appointment at Liverpool Blood Donation Center (7359 Oswego Road Liverpool, NY 13090).

FIRE
+ **ICE** *Gala*
2022

Sleeves Up, Hearts Open, All In!

Saturday, April 9, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Albany Capital Center (55 Eagle Street Albany, NY 12207)

Join us for the 2022 Fire + Ice Gala and support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross in your community. Event includes VIP Reception, Auction, Dinner and Program and Dancing. Sponsorship opportunities and benefits are available based upon donation packages.

The American Red Cross provides help and hope across the Capital Region 365 days a year. Whether responding to home fires, preparing for ice storms, supporting local veterans, or collecting lifesaving blood, the Red Cross is there when it's needed most.

Visit redcross.org under the News and Events section for more information



RecipeCorner

Do you have any recipes to share? I would love to feature your recipes in the monthly newsletter! Leave a recipe on my desk, in the offering plate or email the office at fjoffice@fjumc.org



Chocolate Cherry Loaf Cake

"Decadent and rich, but not too sweet, this fudgy Chocolate Cherry Loaf Cake is loaded with dark, sweet cherries and topped with a delicious mocha glaze. This yummy dessert can be made with either fresh or frozen sweet Bing cherries."

<https://lifeloveandgoodfood.com/chocolate-cherry-loaf-cake/>



INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 1 cup strong brewed coffee (hot)
 - ◆ 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 - ◆ 1 cup all-purpose flour, plus 2 teaspoon
 - ◆ 1 cup sugar
 - ◆ 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - ◆ 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - ◆ 1/2 cup vegetable oil
 - ◆ 1 egg
 - ◆ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - ◆ 1 cup sweet Bing cherries (fresh or frozen), pitted and roughly chopped
 - ◆ 1/3 cup chocolate chips
- COFFEE CHOCOLATE GLAZE:**
- ◆ 1 cup sifted powdered sugar
 - ◆ 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
 - ◆ 2 to 3 tablespoons brewed coffee, cooled

DIRECTIONS

***A few important notes:** Don't skip using parchment paper in the bottom of the loaf pan as this cake bakes up moist and dense and parchment ensures the cake doesn't get stuck to the bottom. Also, if using frozen cherries, do not thaw beforehand and if using fresh cherries, remove the pits and roughly chop them. The cake should bake for about an hour, but to test the cake, insert a wooden pick into the center, if it comes out clean with just a few moist crumbs, than the cake is done, if the pick is wet, try another spot to verify that you didn't hit a cherry.*

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x5 loaf pan with cooking spray and line the bottom with parchment paper.
2. In a glass measuring cup or bowl, whisk together the hot coffee and cocoa powder until smooth. Cool slightly, but keep warm.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together 1 cup all-purpose flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
4. In a smaller bowl, whisk together the oil, egg, and vanilla.
5. Pour the coffee mixture into the bowl with the dry ingredients and stir until just combined. Add the other wet ingredients and stir.
6. Toss the cherries with 2 teaspoons of flour and gently fold into the cake batter along with the chocolate chips.
7. Pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan and bake for 55-60 minutes, or until a wooden pick comes out clean.
8. Cool the cake in the loaf pan on a rack for 15 minutes, then remove the cake from the pan to finish cooling.

GLAZE:

1. Combine the powdered sugar and cocoa powder in a small bowl. Add the coffee one tablespoon at a time, stirring until the desired consistency is reached and the mixture is smooth.
2. Pour the glaze over the top of the cooled cake and let it drizzle over the sides. The glaze will set up within a few minutes.

Prep Time: 15 mins.

Cook Time: 1 hr.

Yield: 10 slices



VALENTINE'S IN THE FOREST



Saturday, February 12, 2022

6:00PM – 9:00PM

HIGHLAND FOREST PARK - FABIUS, NEW YORK

Advance Reservations Required.

Enjoy a nostalgic, romantic evening in the forest with your sweetheart. Four course dinner, delicious dessert, open bar (for the first hour), entertainment and complimentary horse drawn sleigh rides! Presented by Bull & Bear Roadhouse & Catering. All proceeds benefit the Volunteer Nordic Ski Patrol.

Tickets are limited, so purchase yours now. Only 100 available, and they will go fast! Once you purchase your ticket here, you will receive an email confirmation of your purchase. Shortly after, you will receive a QR code (within 24 hours). You will present this email at the door on February 12, 2022.

*Your purchase is priced per couple (included in each purchase is two tickets for dinner, open bar for one hour, and dessert). This event is adults only.

Get tickets at: www.bullandbearroadhouse.com/merch. For questions call: 315-559-8800



January 13, 2022

Dear Faith Journey UMC:

Once again, on behalf of those four communities in South Sudan, I offer a thank-you for the recent contribution of \$170. This money was combined with other donations given to the Southern Sudan Health Projects at Christmas time, to fund the salaries of the eight Home Health Providers. Every day these Home Health Promoters work to advance the health care of thousands of people. My hope is that as a congregation, you continue to celebrate being part of what I believe God is doing in that part of the world.

In God's Love,
Rev. Bradford Hunt

Bible Trivia Answers: 1. Adam, 2. Sisera, 3. Jonah, 4. Elijah, 5. Jacob, 6. Uriah, 7. King Ahasuerus, 8. Nebuchadnezzar, 9. Joseph, 10. The disciples, 11. David and Abishai, 12. God, 13. King Darius, 14. Samson, 15. Jesus, 16. Eutychus, 17. Peter, 18. The Philippian Jailor, 19. Jairus's daughter, 20. Jacob, 21. Causing trouble, 22. Ephesians, 23. 1 Corinthians, 24. Samuel, 25. 1 Thessalonians, 26. Daniel

FEBRUARY 2022



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | 1 | 2 <i>Groundhog Day</i> | 3 <i>Dream Team Meeting, 7pm @ FJUMC</i> 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building | 4 | 5 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building. |
| 6 <i>*Communion</i> <i>Worship Planning after service</i> | 7 | 8 <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B 2.0, 4pm-7pm</i> | 9 <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B 2.0, 10am-4pm</i> 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu- | 10 <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B 2.0, 10am-4pm</i> 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building | 11 | 12 <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B 2.0, 10am-2pm</i> 9AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building |
| 13 | 14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> | 15 | 16 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctuary. | 17 <i>Make It Happen Meeting, 6:30pm @ FJUMC</i> 9AM - 12PM - Workday | 18 <i>Memorial Committee Meeting, 11:30am @ FJUMC</i> | 19 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building |
| 20 | 21 <i>Presidents' Day</i> | 22 | 23 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctuary. | 24 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building | 25 | 26 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building |
| 27 | 28 | 1 | 2 <i>Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7pm @ FJUMC</i> 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy | | | |
| <p><u>In-Person and Online Worship Service:</u> Join us in-person or watch us live every Sunday at 10 am on Facebook www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumcclaynorthsyracuse <u>Sermons also available on:</u> Faithjourneyumc.libsyn.com or https://www.vimeo.com/channels/fjumc</p> | | | | | | |



For the month of **FEBRUARY**, we will be collecting *Laundry Detergent and Dish Soap* for **Elizabeth Ann Seton Food Pantry** in Baldwinsville.

Thank you for your support!



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 mission, 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

Office Location:

8396 Morgan Road
Clay NY 13041

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(315) 458-0890

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Faith Journey UMC Staff:

Pastor Rev. Daniel J. Bradley
Maryna Mazhukhova - Musician
Daniel Williams - Musician
Jake Melnyk - Musician
Sara Mertz - Office Manager
Sean Townsend - Custodian