

Food Pantry Contribution

For the Month of February Faith Journey United Methodist Church is collecting canned vegetables for Brown Memorial United Methodist Church Syracuse (West Side).



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.



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

<p>Office Location:</p> <p>8396 Morgan Road</p> <p>Clay NY 13041</p> <p>Contact Information:</p> <p>Phone: (315) 652-9186 or (315) 458-0890</p> <p>E-Mail: fjoffice@fjumc.org</p> <p>Website: www.fjumc.org</p>	<p>Faith Journey UMC Staff:</p> <p>Pastor Rev. Bradford Hunt</p> <p>Kathy LaDuca - Christian Education</p> <p>Jennifer Dodge - Preschool Teacher</p> <p>Kristy Lee Witt - Preschool Teacher</p> <p>Maryna Mazhukhova - Musician</p> <p>Daniel Williams - Musician</p> <p>Karolyn Thomas - Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Custodian– Sean Townsend</p>
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The Stepping Stone

February 2018

Pastor’s Page

Each day gets a little better for me. Each day I am healing and living in greater ways. It has been just a month since the heart attack, and I know it could have been worse. They put in just one stent, and there was little damage to the heart.

For those who have had dramatic health issues themselves, you may have also discovered that life has a tendency to start all over again. For me, much time has been spent recuperating. I have had to slow up. I also know that it will take much time to catch up the ministry that I have had to set aside.

As I look at life differently, I have come to realize in new ways, how far our culture has strayed from the influence of the teachings of Jesus.

Yes, I have watched TV more than usual, (even more than ever before!) I have watched the ads seeking people to volunteer or do good. But there is no faith dimension to the request. No spiritual reason is ever offered for changing the world. Somehow, the Christian teachings are not having as great an effect as they should.

When one of the Super Bowl ads starts quoting a Baptist minister, but did not include a scripture reference or a reference to Jesus, and then at the end of the ad they try to sell you a Dodge Truck, it can be discouraging. Somehow, companies can usurp the ideals of Christian living, and then use it to try to sell us something. I am pretty sure that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King , and certain that Jesus, wouldn’t care enough to prefer a Dodge truck over any other make.

Our work as people of the faith, is ever changing. We need to continually learn the teachings of Jesus, and be able to express them in thought, word, and deed. We need to help one another discover that connection with God that enables us to be about something bigger than

Pastor's Page *(continued)*

ourselves and our selfish desires. We need to help one another to find identity within the power of the love of God more than any worldly definition. That's when life is the most enjoyable.

We need to help one another to enjoy this precious life that God has given us. We need to enjoy that kind of living that is for today, and tomorrow, and for all eternity. No matter what comes our way. -Rev. Bradford Hunt

Druss Kususi

A program that tutors our New World Ministries children

Druss Kususi continues. The group has grown back to its original size of about 10 children when everyone is there, which makes all that we do more fun!

We continue to do a cooking project each week and work on skills. Cooking has included two dips that would be appropriate to take to a super bowl game, macaroni and cheese and chicken gnocchi soup! The kids enjoy having the opportunity to cut up vegetables, meat and cheese and to measure and pour. We even learned how to make a roux!

Linda Raulli continues to prepare special lessons to interest the older children while the younger children work on math and ELA skills.

We always start with a circle where we have to come up with one good thing that happened during the week and we pray.

We missed two weeks in January due to the weather – it was snowing too hard and the roads were too bad to have people driving. We will not be meeting two weeks during February due to the schools' winter break. If you are interested in working with us as we learn together please speak to Kathy LaDuca or call the church office.



The New Building

900 N. Main St.



The new building:

Renovation takes place nearly every Thursday and Saturday morning. However, the weather is not ideal for the work. We look forward to getting the renovation completed, and moving the Cradle and Beyond into the building.

Meanwhile, donations continue to arrive and are sorted. It appears that when we open, the store would be full.

We are also planning a new worship service that will most likely be held on Saturday evenings. This concept of moving forward to share the love of God in worship and in mission offers an exciting future for Faith Journey. Dreams are already being shared for expanding this ministry.

This is an amazing project. Many thanks to those who have worked every week to make progress on the building. When the weather breaks, there will be opportunities to move the building quickly to completion.

Faith Journey continues to offer \$1000 3 year notes paying 3%. If you are interested in investing in the Cradle and Beyond ministry, contact the Church Office, Dorothy Mahoney, or Rev. Hunt.

Sunday Schools

During January we worked on Jesus, the Greatest Prophet. Classes included the visit of the Wisemen, John the Baptist, Jesus and the children and A boy's lunch. The unit for February is Who Then is This? It includes healing miracles that Jesus does.

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. We have started providing two levels of the worksheets one for the younger kids and one for the older. This allows the younger children to work on more than just coloring. They also really enjoy working on the craft.

Karenni Sunday School

The Karenni class meets at about 11:15 and can have up to 14 children in the group. Children from age 2 through elementary school come to class. 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. Word searches, math sheets that highlight the Bible story, mazes and finding the hidden picture are some of their favorites.

Sudanese Sunday School

The Sudanese group has between 5 and 10 in the which has also grown back to its size from several months ago. 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. All school age children participate and pre-



Upcoming District Events

Laity Evening with Bishop Webb:

March 5th - 6:30 - 8:00p.m.

District laity are invited to the Upper New York Conference Center at 6:30 p.m. on March 5th to engage in loving Christian conversation about our way forward as the United Methodist Church. The goal is not to reach a consensus, but rather to record the widest array of thoughts and ideas possible to send to the Commission on a Way Forward. Please make plans to join the Bishop in this important discussion.



This is Ash Wednesday, February 14th and the beginning of the season of Lent and the journey to Easter on April 1. On this night, we will have a "Covered Dish Supper" @6:00 and follow with worship beginning @7:00. This worship includes a time of confession, a burning of the confessions, and an opportunity to wear the ashes on your forehead or hand. This is a dramatic worship that begins to prepare us for the grand celebration that is Easter.

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, alms giving, and self-denial. This event is observed in the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches. Some Anabaptist and evangelical churches also observe the Lenten season. Its institutional purpose is heightened in the annual commemoration of Holy Week, marking the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the tradition and events of the New Testament beginning on Palm Sunday, further climaxing on Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday, which ultimately culminates in the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Where in the world are United Methodists?

QUIZ:

1. In which English city can you find the oldest Methodist chapel in the world?
 - ◇ Oxford
 - ◇ Bristol
 - ◇ Aldersgate
 - ◇ Salisbury
2. Which of these countries is an archipelago of more than 7,000 islands?
 - ◇ Brunei
 - ◇ Malaysia
 - ◇ Bali
 - ◇ Philippines
3. In what U.S. state can you attend a United Methodist church by kayaking down a river?
 - ◇ Colorado
 - ◇ Florida
 - ◇ North Carolina
 - ◇ Texas
4. True or False: Fishermen in the Congo use elaborate nets made of wood.
5. In which country is the northernmost United Methodist church located?
 - ◇ Denmark
 - ◇ Finland
 - ◇ North Pole
 - ◇ Norway

CONCERT

“LOVE SONGS”, by Maryna and Friends February 16th, 7:00p.m.

This year, it will be held On February 16, at 7:00pm, at Pitcher Hill Community Church.

The music will be love songs from many different time periods and styles of music. The concert will include the Faith Journey Choirs, and special guests.

Southern Sudan Health Projects

The project continues to serve about a thousand people every month. The reports from the 8 Home Health Promoters reveal that the most common issues addressed is malaria, anemia, and diarrhea.

Medicine is more difficult to come by, and Paul, our administrator, has asked for more funds to acquire more medicine.

There is a need for a motorbike for Paul to move around and be of assistance. A church group from Oswego County is considering that as their mission.

Abraham, who is one of the HHP's, is now in Uganda visiting his family who are in a refugee camp there. We will be sending him another two month's salary to take back to the workers. It is the only way that we know how to get funds to the project.

Please keep the Home Health Promoters in your prayers, and please give generously to make a difference in Malek, South Sudan.





Little Steps

Welcome to February! Our happy little classroom is excited to fill our halls with love this month! Miss K and Ms. Linda will be at the Preschool Fair at the Liverpool Library on Saturday, February 10th from 10a.m - noon...come by for some crafts and sweet treats! The children are making amazing progress in school! Parents, you should be very proud...we certainly are!

*REMINDER: FLU SEASON! Here are some tips to keep our children, parents and staff healthy. If you are sick, please stay home and get well...don't spread it.

⇒ **Get Vaccinated for Seasonal Influenza Every Year**

⇒ **Use good hygiene - wash those hands or use Anti-bacterial soaps and sanitizers.**

⇒ **Is your child too sick to come to Preschool?**

FEBRUARY THEMES - what we are learning!

Lessons & Celebrations: Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day

Letter Focus: V for Valentine's Day, D for Dinosaurs, Dogs and Donuts!

Fine Motor: Cutting, threading, gluing, and tracing

Language & English: Sight words, Emergent Reader Books, Identifying letters, Reciting ABCs

Science: Dinosaur Investigations!

Art: Lots of heart and love-themed projects this month!

A word from Anna's Pantry

Dear Faith Journey Church...

Your generous gift is a warm blessing on a wintry day. We THANK YOU for your kindness!

6. Which West African country celebrated 100 years of Methodism and is vital to chocolate lovers?

◇ Côte d'Ivoire

◇ Liberia

◇ Nigeria

◇ Wonkaland

7. Which U.S. state is home to the Mayo Clinic and a United Methodist church with a pizza oven on its lawn?

◇ New York

◇ Illinois

◇ New Jersey

◇ Minnesota

8. What African country is home to both the largest waterfall in the world and Africa University?

◇ Mozambique

◇ Botswana

◇ Zimbabwe

◇ Malawi

9. Which island country in the Caribbean resembles a crocodile and is home to 400 Methodist churches?

◇ The Bahamas

◇ Cuba

◇ Dominican Republic

◇ Neverland

10. Where was the first Methodist meeting place in America located?

◇ Strawbridge Shrine, New Windsor, Maryland

◇ St. George's Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

◇ Barratt's Chapel, Frederica, Delaware

◇ Old Stone Church Site, Leesburg, Virginia

Answer Sheet - Where in the world are United Methodists?

QUIZ ANSWER SHEET:

1. In which English city can you find the oldest Methodist chapel in the world?
 - ◇ The correct answer is Bristol. Considered the cradle of the early Methodist movement, The New Room was built by John Wesley in 1739. He preached often from its pulpit and also used the center to assist and educate needy members of the community. It is still used for services today, making it the oldest Methodist chapel in the world.
2. Which of these countries is an archipelago of more than 7,000 islands?
 - ◇ The correct answer is the Philippines. Home to Bishop Ciriaco Q. Francisco, who was named the United Methodist of 2016 for his work to help protect and feed hundreds of Filipino farmers, the 7,107 islands that comprise the Philippines cover a total of 115,831 square miles across the Pacific Ocean.
3. In what U.S. state can you attend a United Methodist church by kayaking down a river?
 - ◇ The correct answer is North Carolina. The United Methodist church in Bryson City gives new meaning to the phrase "River of Life" through its unique ministry to visitors via the Nantahala River in western North Carolina.
4. True or False: Fishermen in the Congo use elaborate nets made of wood.
 - ◇ The correct answer is True. The United Methodist Church's newest episcopal area is in the eastern area of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the church is flourishing. For more than 200 years, area fishermen have fed their families by constructing giant wooden nets that hang on large scaffolding over Stanley Falls in the Congo River. The tribal chief decides who gets the prime fishing spots.
5. In which country is the northernmost United Methodist church located?
 - ◇ The correct answer is Norway. Where the town of Hammerfest boasts the northernmost United Methodist church in the world. Approximately 10,000 people live in the community, which is north of the Arctic Circle.
 - ◇

40 Days of Lent: Follow your spiritual path by these examples:

◆ **FASTING -**

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping or something else through the season. This is a religious practice known as fasting. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God. Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to focus on devotional practices like Bible Study and prayer.

◆ **BIBLE READING -**

Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide will help guide you in this pursuit. Each day they provide a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-teaching material to read and think about. Upper rooms are available at Clay and North Syracuse.

◆ **PRAYER -**

In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding more time in your life for prayer. You can experiment with different ways to pray during season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

◆ **SERVICE -**

Take your time and do some volunteer work.

◆ **REST -**

An important practice with which many of us struggle is the spiritual discipline of rest or Sabbath. We don't have to rest on Saturday, the traditional Sabbath day, or even Sunday. You can instead find moments during an ordinary day to be in God's presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch listening to sermons or read a poem that feeds your spirit.

Three ways to say “I love you”!



A lot of people look to the Rev. Jay Tenney for advice on getting married and staying married. As pastor of Tunnel Hill, (Ga) Tunnel Hill United Methodist Church, Tenney has counseled many in-love couples looking for a marriage made in heaven, as well as advising out-of-love couples who are forced to admit that their marriage is sadly earthbound. In his many years of coaching couples and helping them navigate the pitfalls of love and marriage, Tenney has made some observations and come to a few conclusions about what makes a relationship work and keep working. Here are (3) ways to say “I love you”!

- ♥ **Build Each other up!** Tenney says couples who are generous with their encouragement and support of each other is crucial to the success and survival of a marriage.
- ♥ **Blessed to serve each other!** Scripture calls us to 'serve one another in love' (Galatians 5:13), and Tenney believes that service should begin in our marriages and families.
- ♥ **Become “Intimacy Allies”!** "Romance is nice but intimacy is wonderful. It goes way beyond a holiday that we celebrate once a year."

TENNEY'S TOP TEN RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE:

10. Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire.
9. If one of you has to win an argument, let it be your spouse.
8. Never bring up mistakes from the past.
7. If you have to criticize, do it lovingly.
6. Find ways to bless your spouse every day.
5. Whenever you are with your spouse, be all there.
4. Compliment your spouse in front of others.
3. When you screw up, admit it, ask for forgiveness and move ON.
2. Factor in time to simply have fun together.

1. Keep God in the center of your relationship.

6. Which West African country celebrated 100 years of Methodism and is vital to chocolate lovers everywhere?

- ◇ The correct answer is Côte d'Ivoire (French for Ivory Coast). The Ivory Coast leads the world in production and export of cocoa beans. The country supplies one-third of all the cocoa beans used in the manufacturing of chocolate. Now that's a lot of chocolate bars!

7. Which U.S. state is home to the Mayo Clinic and a United Methodist church with a pizza oven on its lawn?

- ◇ The correct answer is Minnesota. Rochester is the home of the world famous Mayo Clinic, a medical facility known for teaching and innovative treatment. Hamline Church in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area offers a new spin on sharing the “Bread of Life” with their neighbors by sharing freshly baked pizza from its outdoor oven.

8. What African country is home to both the largest waterfall in the world and Africa University?

- ◇ The correct answer is Zimbabwe. Considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Victoria Falls is twice the height and one and a half times the width of Niagara Falls, making it the world's largest sheet of falling water. Zimbabwe is also the location of Africa University. Established by the worldwide United Methodist Church in 1988, Africa University develops leaders whose skills and personal values enable them to serve and transform their communities.

9. Which island country in the Caribbean resembles a crocodile and is home to 400 Methodist churches?

- ◇ The correct answer is Cuba. Cuba is often referred to in Spanish as “El Cocodrilo” due to its shape like a crocodile. Today, the Methodist Church in Cuba is thriving with more than 400 churches throughout 80 per cent of the municipalities. The Methodist Church in Cuba shares a separate, but close bond with The United Methodist Church.

10. Where was the first Methodist meeting place in America located?

- ◇ The correct answer is Strawbridge Shrine in New Windsor, Maryland . Robert Strawbridge was the first Methodist lay preacher in America. An immigrant from Ireland, Strawbridge and his wife Elizabeth were farmers who opened their home to ministry and planted the seeds of Methodism in the New World. The Rev. Francis Asbury acknowledged in his journals that this was the birthplace of American Methodism.

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 9 AM- 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	3 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd. Mattydale
4	5 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	6	7 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	8 6:30 PM - Trustees mtg. @ Clay	9 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	10 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd. Mattydale
11 6:30 PM - Worship Planning	12 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 10 AM - Southern Sudan Health Project @ Clay Campus	13 6:30 PM - Cradle and Beyond Trustees Meeting @ Dunkin' Donuts	14 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps Ash Wednesday Covered Dish Supper @ 6:00p.m. followed by service @ 7:00p.m	15	16 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps, 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus 7 PM - Maryna & Friends concert @ Pitcher Hill	17 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd. Mattydale
18	19 No Preschool - Winter Break	20	21 No Preschool - Winter Break	22 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	23 No Preschool - Winter Break 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	24 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd. Mattydale
25 6:30 PM - Worship Planning	26 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 6 PM - Little Steps Committee mtg. @ Clay	27 7 PM - Memorial Committee mtg. @ Clay	28 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps			

February 4: Mark 1:29-39 is a story of Jesus healing the sick, including Peter's Mother in law. The power of Jesus' healing continues in this worship. We will celebrate Holy Communion on this day.

February 11: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 is the letter that describes how easy it is to not see the presence and power of God. Our worship will focus on revealing the light of Christ.

February 14: Ash Wednesday

February 18: Mark 1:9-15 is the scripture for the day. It is about Jesus' baptism, and then Jesus heading off into the wilderness. Alone. Without stuff. Salvation is not in our stuff.

February 25: Mark 8:31-38 is the story of Jesus telling of his impending death and resurrection. Peter pulls him aside, worried about public opinion. Salvation is not in public opinion.

Sunday Services Schedule

9:30 AM - Contemporary Worship @ Clay
11 AM - Traditional Worship @ Clay
12:30 PM - Traditional Worship @ Pitcher Hill Community Church at 605 Bailey Rd. in N Syracuse