



# The Stepping Stone

April 2018

## **Pastor's Page**

So, here I am in my last three months of being pastor of Faith Journey. It is my last three months of being paid full time for ministry. It is also my last three months of living in North Syracuse where we have lived for 15 years. I never thought I would live that long in one place in my life.

It causes me to reflect upon my calling to serve God when I was 18, back in 1972. It will be 46 years this June that I began my time of serving God. It has been good years.

With the shortage of funds, and the Bishop's cabinet putting pressure on the Faith Journey, I knew things had to change. I made the choice of retiring to half time, nearer to two of my children and their children. The Bishop's cabinet was very gracious in offering me what I requested.

So things will change. I will have some projects that I want to do. I will have time to attend car shows, and get the Edsel running again. (Especially if my brother, the mechanical engineer, retires and wants to get his Edsel running as well.)

But as I think and imagine the future, well, I have these ideas for the congregation I am going to.

If I have to leave all the great things that Faith Journey is about, and the new directions that it is going, I have to have to some dreams for new ministry.

That is the way that I am geared. I believe that God has much more in store for us than we have the faith to accept. I believe that God is depending on the faith of people who have (at least some of the time) God's will in their hearts rather than their own.

Maybe we will finish the building in time for me to help the new service begin to have a new foundation. Maybe I will be able to help the Cradle and Beyond to gear up to take on the expansive ministry that is coming its way. Maybe I will be able to help the Little Steps grow the next program. Or maybe it will all happen without my presence.

And when I think about it all, these 46 years, it has been a deep joy. So, yes, I look forward to the next three months, and the years that will come after that to serving our God. I hope you are looking forward to serving God in the years to come as well. After all, that is why God made us: to love and to serve.

**- Rev. Bradford Hunt**

# Druss Kususi

*A program that tutors our New World Ministries children*

Druss Kususi met throughout March. We had a month of good attendance and some children bringing their home-work.

We continue to do a cooking project each week and work on skills. We made curried chicken, lasagna, pork chops and had a competition making two separate meals from the new meal ingredients in a box. That was surprisingly fun and amazing that everything right down to the spices and butter were in the box. Both of the meals were good and which was the best was really a matter of taste. Measuring, cutting, learning the names of ingredients that they aren't familiar with is all part of the process.

Linda continues to prepare special lessons to interest the older children while the younger children work on math and ELA skills. We always try to have special worksheets for holidays such as St. Patrick's Day. It is always easier to learn when you are having fun doing it.

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 always have a snack as soon as we arrive and lunch before we leave.

If you are interested in working with us as we learn together please speak to Kathy LaDuca.



## Where do those empty detergent bottles go?

We continue to collect the empty detergent bottles and take them to St. Rose Roman Catholic church in North Syracuse. They have a group of people that have an inexpensive formula for laundry detergent. They then fill the empty bottles, and offer them to the folks who frequent the food pantry every month.

Keep in mind that food stamps (SNAP) cannot be used for laundry detergent.

The picture below shows the filled bottles, ready to assist those in need. Thanks goes to the team at St. Rose!

- Rev. Bradley Hunt



# Upcoming District Events

## OUTWARD '18!, April 13-15

Holiday Inn and Suites, 441 Electronics Pkwy, Liverpool, NY.

"Embrace" is the theme based on Mark 11:22b: "Embrace this God-life. Really embrace it, and nothing will be too much for you" (The Message). This year's Outward (formally UpWord) will focus on how we can put our Inward growth into Outward action. Workshop and activities are designed for youth in grades 7-12. Any questions regarding the registration, contact Judy Hipes at 607-624-2145 or [tandj3905@hotmail.com](mailto:tandj3905@hotmail.com)

\*Please Note: Registrations received after April 2 cannot be guaranteed hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn.

Please contact church office for registration form at 315-652-9186 or email: [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org). This registration is completely retro, hard copy, make check payable to UNYUMC with Outward 18 in the memo line, etc. There will be NO on-line registration for this event.

## Imagine No Racism Event April 21!

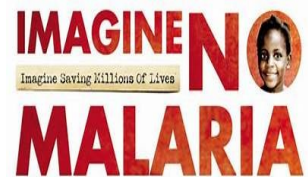
The Upper New York Bishop's Taskforce on Eliminating Racism has been working hard on a new ministry, which they are calling Imagine No Racism, drawing inspiration from our denomination's successful Imagine No Malaria campaign. Like Imagine No Malaria, Imagine No Racism will unapologetically identify the disease of racism and offer concrete ways to bring healing. The Bishop has sent a letter to the clergy across the Conference to set aside Saturday April 21 (12:30 p.m.- 4 p.m.) at the United Methodist Conference Center for the Imagine No Racism Launch Day open to both clergy and laity; simultaneous events will be held across the Conference in every District.



## April 25 is World Malaria Day!

April 25th is an international observance dedicated to malaria awareness.

Since 2010, the people of The United Methodist Church through its Imagine No Malaria initiative have focused on reducing malaria deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the process, the denomination has learned that "our God is able, more than able to do more than we can ask or imagine."



# Thoughts on a "Good Friday" morning

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!

We all love these words and gladly proclaim them to be true on Easter Sunday. We often wear new clothes and exude the excitement of the festival both spiritual and worldly. We enjoy Palm Sunday with the waving of the palms that many of us then take home to make crosses out of and the hymns full of pomp that make us want to be in that parade. But then I attended Holy Thursday service at the church where I am a member. I like to attend the Holy Week services and as a teen went to all of them available – typically one on Wednesday, two on Maundy Thursday and two on Good Friday. They were all different and meaningful. But back to this Holy Thursday – the church wasn't full – attendance wasn't good. All the faithful who so much enjoyed the more festive Palm Sunday and who will so joyously proclaim Jesus risen on Easter weren't there.

I want to be there for the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. I need to be there. The news that comes from the world today is often causes me to be sad, angry and sometimes scared. Shootings, floods and tornadoes, wars and alienation and lack of justice for the poor and oppressed is difficult to hear. On a more personal level – there are people who are sick and hurting due to disease or bodily malfunctions, there are people who are dying or who have died – even those who were old and ready to die – but I still miss, there are those suffering from depression, anxiety, concerned about all the changes in their lives which will also cause changes in my life, and then there are those who encounter the sick, dying and hurting every day and who have such a need to be heard as they try to process all the hurt and grief they see. There is also all the pain I have caused others – all those times I have not done God's will, denied God, chosen to take my own path rather than follow Jesus.

I need those Holy Thursday and Good Friday services which remind me that Jesus, too, knew what it meant to be betrayed by a man he called friend, to be in the garden and pray that despite his probable fear and anxiety that he would do God's will not his own. A man who knew what it was like to be denied by another friend – one of his most prominent followers, what it was like to have society say kill him not the man who killed others. And finally, what it was like to be hung on a cross to die – to forgive the man hanging next to him, to forgive his executioners, and to be abandoned by his followers who were too afraid and probably too saddened to see Jesus' life and the dreams that held for all of them hanging on the cross.

I need to know that Jesus felt many of those things that I feel only a hundred times worse. I need to know that God is with me and I'm not alone at the foot of the cross, so to speak. I need to understand that he died for me and that in his death he forgave my sins and took all that is awful unto himself so that I might have life. Before I can truly proclaim that Christ has been raised from the dead I need to walk the Via Dolorosa – the way of tears – and do my best to understand all that Jesus went through so that I can know that he experienced far worse than I will ever have to and that he did it all for me and the rest of God's children. I do need to feel the sadness of the week and the hurt and the pain – at least a little bit. I need to connect all of it to my hurt and pain. Then I am truly ready to proclaim that Jesus rose from the dead.

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!!

**- Kathy LaDuca**



# Roast Beef Dinner

THIS IS OUR 62nd GRANDMA'S

OLD-FASHIONED ROAST BEEF DINNER

**Saturday April 28, 2018**

**4:00 pm 'til all are served**

**FAITH JOURNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY. 13041**

**(Located between Route 31 & Wetzell Rd.)**

**Phone: (315) 652-9186 E-mail: fjoffice@fjumc.org**

## **MENU**

*(All You Can Eat)*

**Roast Beef**

**Mashed Potatoes**

**Gravy**

**Vegetables**

**Tossed Salad**

**Rolls & Mixed Breads**

**Homemade Pie or Cake**

**Assorted Beverages**

**IT'S TIME FOR OUR SEMI-ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Please indicate the areas in which you are willing to help. This form will be in the Clay Lobby area to fill out.

**I WILL DONATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CASH to buy supplies** (make checks payable to faith Journey UMC)

Please sign up to bring: \* **DESSERTS** (pies preferred but other desserts welcome) / \* **ASSORTED LOAF BREADS** (pumpkin, zucchini, banana, and nut, brown) or \* **OTHER SUPPLIES**

**I WILL WORK:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday, April 28, 9am-Noon (Kitchen)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday April 28, 3pm- 6:30 (Kitchen)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday, April 28, 3:30-6:30 (Dining Room)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday, April 28, 6:30 + (Clean up)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday, April 28, WHEREVER NEEDED**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **DONATION**

**ADULTS** \$12.00

**SENIORS** \$11.00 (65+)

**CHILDREN** \$4.00 (6 - 12)

**5 & UNDER** FREE





# Little Steps

Welcome to April!



♦ APRIL THEMES - what we are learning: The Lesson is Types of weather, seasons

Letters: E,F,R Numbers: 9,10 Shape: Octagon Colors: Yellow, Green Celebration: Earth Day

## \* WE ARE IN NEED OF:

- ♦ Craft Supplies: crayons, glue, construction paper, colored pencils, etc...
  - ♦ Snacks: Pretzels, cheese sticks, crackers, bananas, oranges, apples, graham crackers, etc...
- Please bring to worship or place in Little Steps Box. Thank you from Little Steps

# Barnes & Noble BOOK FAIR



Come join **LITTLE STEPS** Preschool Bookfair,

Wednesday, April 25th, 2018

3956 Route 31 - Clay to support our Bookfair!

Print off Voucher and take with you to scan!

Please contact Mary Ellen Pasternak with any questions concerning Bookfair!

# VOUCHER



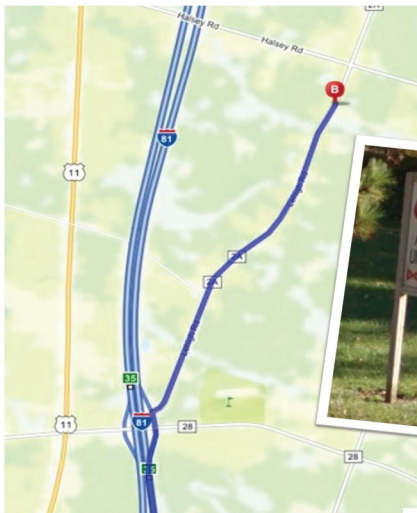


# Methodists From Around the World

**SAVE THE DATE: JULY 15th**



## ANDY'S CAMP!



**To get to Andy's Camp:**

**400 Lehigh Road, Pulaski, NY 13142**

- Take 81 North to Exit 35 - Tinker Tavern Road.
- Go across Tinker Tavern Road, then take your next right onto Lehigh Road (Route 2A)
- Go 2 miles and Andy's Camp is on the right. (Look for the sign!)



# Church news

### NEW APPOINTMENT:

Rev. Bradford Hunt has been granted retirement status, and a new half-time appointment to West Barre UMC, beginning July 1.



LET'S WELCOME!!

Rev. Daniel Bradley has been appointed to Faith Journey UMC beginning on July 1. Rev. Bradley, his wife Mary, and their daughter, Kiah will be moving into the parsonage on Gertrude St. in North Syracuse.

# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <u><b>Easter!</b></u>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM - Trustees Mtg. @ Clay 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	<b>6</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps, 5:15 PM - SPRC Meeting @ Clay 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>7</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd.
<b>8</b> 6:30 PM - Worship & Planning Meeting @ Clay	<b>9</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>10</b> 6 PM - Cradle & Beyond/Trustees mtg. @ Dunkin' Donuts Drum Circle - Bring food donation	<b>11</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>12</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Bldg, , 1 PM - Mary Circle @ Clay	<b>13</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 10:30 AM - Southern Sudan Health Project mtg. @ Clay	<b>14</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd.
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>19</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	<b>20</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 11:00 AM - Memorial Committee Meeting @ Clay Campus	<b>21</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd.
<b>22</b> <u><b>Earth Day</b></u>	<b>23</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 6:30 PM - Worship & Planning	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>26</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	<b>27</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>28</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd. Mattdale
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 10 AM - Cradle & Beyond Mtg. @ Dunkin' Donuts 6 PM - Little Steps Committee mtg. @ Clay					

## 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



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**April 1:** John 20: 1-18 EASTER SUNDAY! We will celebrate this day with a great celebration

**April 8:** John 20: 19-31, This will be the story of doubting Thomas. Once again we will hear from Thomas who was not in the room when Jesus first appeared. Instead (Faith Journey version) he was out getting groceries. We will celebrate communion on this day.

**April 15:** Luke 24: 36-48 is a post resurrection story of Jesus appearing to his disciples. Once again, he tells them of his purpose, and that they should tell everyone.

**April 22:** John 10: 11-18 is the scripture for the day. Kathy LaDuca will be leading the worship on this day.

**April 29:** John 15: 1-8 is the scripture for the day. It is the teaching of Jesus that he is the vine, and we are the branches. That in order to live life fully, we need to be connected to our God.

# southern Sudan Health Projects

Last week I received an email from Paul in Bor, South Sudan. It was the latest report on the work of the 8 Health Care workers. There are numbers to look at. They tell the ages of the persons helped and their ailments.

As I looked at the numbers, I noticed the high number of children being helped. I noticed the variety of diseases being addressed. I looked at the numbers of people being helped.

We've included one of the eight reports from last month. Yes, it is the more active of the 8 Home Health Promoters, but look at what is being done.

Your financial support is needed.

In the coming months, I hope another congregation will join in supporting this amazing project. (They don't know it yet!) It is astounding what God can do through a small group of people enjoying doing God's will.

- Rev. Bradford Hunt

**Southern Sudan Health Projects**  
Faith Journey United Methodist Church  
8396 Morgan Road Clay NY 13041  
www.southernsudanhealthprojects.org

For the Glory of God, we will strive to enable the development of Community Based systems for health and for the holistic quality of life in Southern Sudan.

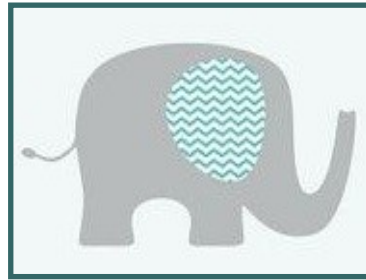
Routine Monthly Report Health workers and promoters County Bor  
Report Monthly /Year, 31/12/2017 By Philip Gai Luol Signature [Signature]

OPD	Number	Comment
1. Curative consultation under 5 years	72	well done
2. curative consultation 5 years and older	134	" "
3. antenatal client 1 <sup>st</sup> visit	02	" "
4. antenatal client 4 <sup>th</sup> or more	-	" "
5. antenatal client IPT 2 or more	-	" "
6. How many children were vaccination in the village	31	" "
7. Deliver in facility by TBA/MCHW/CHW/Community Village midwife	05	" "
8. Direct obstetric complication referred	04	" "
9. Live birth in the area	08	" "
10. malaria RDT done under 5 years	16	" "
11. malaria uncomplicated clinically diagnosed under 5 years	04	" "
12. malaria uncomplicated confirm positive under 5 years	23	" "
13. malaria severe under 5 years	02	" "
14. pneumonia presumed under 5 years	08	" "
15. Diarrhea treated with Ors under 5 years	09	" "
16. Diarrhea all 5 years and older	17	" "
17. MUAC < 115 mm under 5 years (curative care)	01	" "
18. MUAC < 125 mm under 5 years care	04	" "
19. child growth monitoring and promotion under 5 years	-	" "
20. Malaria RDT done 5 years and older	28	" "
21. malaria uncomplicated clinically diagnose 5 years and older	04	" "
22. malaria uncomplicated confirm positive 5 years and older	37	" "
23. malaria severe 5 years and older	10	" "
24. Health Education done in the villages	02	" "
25. number of House hold have latrine in the villages	05	" "
26. TB suspect	-	" "
27. TB suspect referred to TB unit	-	" "
28. STI case treated	28	" "
29. condom male distributed	-	" "
30. ACT - Amodiaquine dose for infant and toddler	45	" "
31. ACT - Amodiaquine dose for children and adult	112	" "

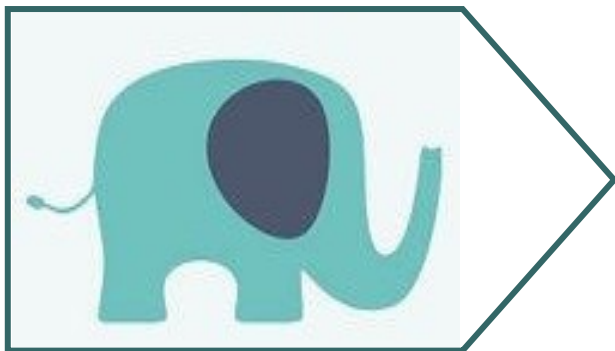


# BABIES, BABIES, BABIES!

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS!



all of **GOD'S** *Grace* IN  
**ONE** sweet little  
*Face!*



HUDSON LUKE OSBURN

9 lbs. 8 oz.

Born 1/27/18

To Chad & Stefanie Osburn

ETHAN PHE LANLEESAY

7 lbs. 8 oz.

Born 3/28/18

To Rev. Sai Lanleesay & Sae

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER WERE SPECIAL!

Thank you for celebrating the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He Is RISEN!!

\* HOLY THURSDAY was amazing! The Re-enactment of The Last Supper was great,

THANK YOU to all who made the worship special.



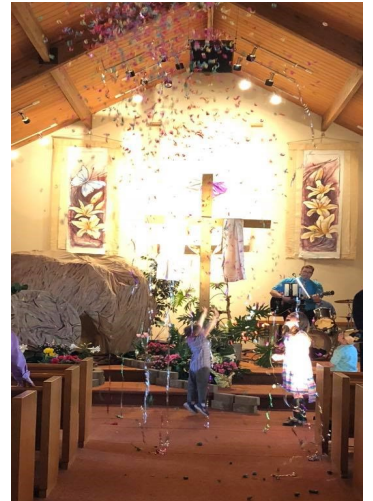
GOOD FRIDAY...we shared the Passion Narrative story through music! The music was wonderful, THANK YOU to all the soloists, the choir and musicians!

## EASTER SUNDAY!

What an amazing day to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

We had a great turnout and the confetti was a hit! THANK YOU to all who made this happen.

Thank you to all for celebrating with us.



## EMAIL LIST

Faith Journey is updating our e-mail list!

We are in the process of updating our email list. If you are not yet on our list, please contact the church office at [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org) . If you know of someone that would like to receive the emails, please contact the church office.

Our “Stepping Stone” newsletter will be sent to everyone on the email list, rather than through the post office. If you would rather receive the newsletter in the mail, please contact the church office.

- Church office



# Sunday Schools

March's unit was In the Name of the Lord. It included the story about Mary honoring Jesus by pouring perfume on his feet, Bartimaeus and Jesus, the story of Jesus celebrating the Passover with his disciples and the Palm Sunday story. All leading up to Easter on April 1<sup>st</sup>. April's unit is Go and Tell. It includes the story of the empty tomb, Paul Changes, Paul Escapes, The Church Grows and Timothy is Chosen.

## 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 are 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. This group has a lot of younger children so they need extra help getting their work done.

## Karenni Sunday School

The Karenni class meets at about 11:15 and can have up to 16 children in the group. Lately the groups have been between 12-15 children which keeps us busy. Children from age 2 through elementary school come to class. The class hears the lesson works on the booklets and enjoys the craft. Again, we are able to use the younger books and older books depending on the child's abilities. On a somewhat frequent basis, when Sean Chanthasone is here we have some children from the Karenni church in Binghamton. 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 children. 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 preschoolers who are interested sometimes listen to the story or color a worksheet.

# The New Building

## 900 N. Main St.



It looks like the weather is going to break, and that will allow more work to be done. This coming week it is expected that many of the windows will be in place.

Presently, the wiring is being done. All of the old wire has been removed, and there will only be new wiring. The windows and doors, in memory of **Marilyn Knoop**, have been in the process of being put in place for some time. And, yes, there is still some more gutting of the building taking place, as beams will replace walls allowing for the largest open space possible.

Stop in and check it out...or **HELP!**

Crews are there every Thursday and Saturday, from 9am until noon. There will be more times that folks will be working there as well.

What a resurrection we are experiencing!

- Rev. Bradford Hunt



### WINDOWS AND DOORS FOR NEW BUILDING, In memory of Marilyn Knoop

If you would like to purchase a window in memory of Marilyn Knoop, or in support of her shared vision for Faith Journey, please make a contribution. Special envelopes can be used with option for window or door. Each window is about \$125 and doors are more. If you would like to make a contribution please use envelope on table in lobby.





## Food Pantry Contribution

For the Month of April Faith Journey will be collecting personal care items for Phoenix 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 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

### Office Location:

8396 Morgan Road  
Clay NY 13041

### Contact Information:

**Phone:** (315) 652-9186 or  
(315) 458-0890

**E-Mail:** [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)

**Website:** [www.fjumc.org](http://www.fjumc.org)

### Faith Journey UMC Staff:

Pastor Rev. Bradford Hunt  
Kathy LaDuca - Christian Education  
Kristy Lee Witt - Preschool Teacher  
Maryna Mazhukhova - Musician  
Daniel Williams - Musician  
Mechele Wright - Administrative Assistant  
Custodian— Sean Townsend