



# The Stepping Stone

May 2018

## Pastor's Page

The road to semi-retirement is an interesting one for me. It has given me a chance to look back at the last 46 years of serving God through the United Methodist Church. It has offered me a chance to be part of what God is doing in the world in more ways than I have noticed or will remember.

It was the Christmas vacation of my senior year in high school that on behalf of the Conference Youth Council, I went to observe the national United Methodist Council on Youth Ministries in Naperville, Illinois.

I came to know the national youth staff, Larry Jacobs and Dick Cash at that event. Following the event, they invited me to travel back with them to Nashville, which I did, and then I would fly back to Syracuse. In that time, I became amazed at their faith, and their commitment to serving God. I was so moved, that I applied for such a job at the Washington DC office for the UMCYM. I got the job.

A friend moved me to Washington a week before I graduated from high school, as my tests were completed. I began work immediately, leading a workshop in Westminster, Maryland.

I flew back to graduate, and then on to New York City for some training.

I remember working in Washington DC that year and working with the many youth groups that came to Washington Study seminar, and the youth groups that I worked with up and down the East Coast.

I remember visiting the Watergate Hotel, and later, seeing the line of people waiting to watch the Watergate hearings at the Senate office building next door to our Methodist Building.

The years went by. I worked at the Conference Center, and then started serving churches.

I remember the first Easter worship that I ever led at the Fineview UMC on Wellesley Island. Why I remember, is that two brothers and their families attended. One sat on the left side of the aisle, the other on the right. I was glad to see them both. But, it was later in the week that I realized what was happening. For a long time, probably years, they would not be in the same room together. When it was pointed out to me what had happened, I learned that the community was surprised and pleased. It was then that I learned that God uses us in ways that we do not know, for purposes that are bigger than us. Later that year, we worked together on the funeral for their father.

Forty-six years. What challenges, what joys.

I tell these stories not to bring the focus upon my life, but to cause you to remember how others have helped you to discover God, and how God has used you for ministry over your years. Take some time to do so. It is a joy.

I will take some more time to remember. In fact, on June 16, there will be a retirement party at the Clay campus where there will be food, music, and a chance to reflect on how we and many others have been in ministry together.

God has made this life good for you, and for me. We must always be thankful.

**- Rev. Bradford Hunt**

# Druss Kususi

*A program that tutors our New World Ministries children*

Druss Kususi met twice during April due to the school's Spring break.

We continue to do a cooking project each week and work on skills. We made pasta and meatballs. When I say we made them – the children had the opportunity to work with a pasta maker to produce their own pasta as well as making meatballs from scratch. The pasta maker was a big hit. Measuring, cutting, learning the names of ingredients and following directions are all part of the learning process.

We worked on some math and ELA skills using Spring and Easter worksheets. It's always fun to have worksheets that have an added twist like solving a puzzle when you finish doing the skill section.

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.

It is coming to the end of the year again. Hard to believe. We will be collecting money and gift cards in order to be able to provide gift bags for each child to use this summer. Gift cards that are especially welcome include those to Barnes and Noble, Five Below, Walmart, Ollies and the Dollar Tree. It's important that we are able to give them books, puzzles, games and outdoor activities so that they have positive ways to spend their summer.

If you wish to contribute please place your donations in the offering plate, send to the church office or give 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. Bradford Hunt



# Upcoming District Events

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## Advanced Lay Servant Class - May 26th

The Advanced course for Lay Servants, "Leading Worship" will be held on five Saturdays from May 26 through July 7, 2018 (no classes June 2nd and 23rd) from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Manlius UMC.

This course will focus on basic worship leadership skills for laypersons who assist in leading worship with particular attention paid to understanding your leadership role, reading scripture, leading prayer, and basic dos and don'ts of effective worship leadership.

If you are interested in this course, please print and complete the [application form](#), have it signed by your pastor and return it to Manlius UMC, P.O. Box 177, Manlius NY 13104 with a check payable to "UNYAC" in the sum of \$10.00 by May 15, 2018. Each participant is required to order "Worshiping with United Methodists" by Hoyt Hickman through [Cokesbury](#) (ISBN 978-06873-3526-8 \* \$11.33), [Amazon.com](#) or any other bookstores in advance.

For more information, please contact Pastor Joseph Kim at [jkim1107@gmail.com](mailto:jkim1107@gmail.com) church office (315) 682-8021; cell

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## 9th Session of Upper New York 2018 Annual Conference May 30–June 2, 2018

The Media Resource Center will be bringing a display of our new and most popular items for you to peruse and plan your next church study. We'll be setting up in Allyn Hall Gymnasium located in the SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College, our new location for this year's Annual Conference, along with Cokesbury and many of our other Conference team and related agency displays. I would ask that you not take anything from the display, but see me or my staff and we'll help you to schedule the materials that you may be interested in.

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### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**May 3 - National Day of Prayer**

**May 10 - Ascension of the Lord**

**May 13 - Mother's Day**

**May 20 - Pentecost**

**May 28 - Memorial Day**

**May 30 - June 2: [2018 Upper New York Annual Conference](#)**

### **Memorial Day Worship and Prayer Resources**

Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, is a day on the civil calendar for remembering and honoring those who have given their lives in battle.

Historically and traditionally, it has been viewed more as a civic than a liturgical observance. So, please honor those who gave their lives on May 28th, 2018.

# Rebirth and New Life

## Rebirth and new life

As I walk into NAVAC each morning I look down on the ground where new seed has been planted. The ground is often wet with either the morning dew or the water that has been put there to nourish the seed. This morning when I passed the seed for the first time in a number of days, I noted that there was rebirth and new life. There were tiny blades of grass pushing up through the wet ground – a sign that Spring and yes, new life was in our midst.

Every Spring, as we celebrate Easter we are reminded that this is a time of rebirth and new life as we remember that not only did Jesus die on the cross but rose from the dead to bring us to new life. Spring is often thought of as a time of spiritual new life and rebirth as the world recreates itself with new flowers, leaves, new baby animals. As the earth warms we also often find ourselves being reborn by the Spirit and enjoying once again a new life in Christ as our old life falls away. Luther said we need to die to our old life to have a new life in Christ.

Death is the ultimate of dying to our old life and being reborn as we go to be with God forever. I am reminded of this especially today, as my family remembers the first anniversary of my mother's death. I wondered to myself about death bringing about rebirth and new life – not so much the new life the decedent has with God, but the hope and new life that those remaining find. We can always dwell on the loss – and at times need to as we continue to mourn the death of a loved one we may have hoped we would never have to live without. But beyond the mourning – what new life can be found?

As I look at my own life I see re-found relationships. As my cousins' parents have recently died also, we find ourselves drawn to each other for the familial love and support we used to receive through our parents. I find myself returning home more frequently to spend time with them over lunch, to share our lives in a way that we haven't since we were kids. Our parents had been friends since their childhoods as well as being family members and in-laws. They showed us what it means to have long term relationships. Now we repeat that pattern knowing the meaning it had for them and the opportunity it gives us to know our parents through the eyes of others, to grow as a family and share all that means with each other. What a gift.

Renewing old relationships with friends from our neighborhood and church, people I haven't seen or talked to in years, has been part of this new life. People who knew my shortcomings, hopes and dreams when I was young. Sharing from the bond of what has been, almost as if the years haven't interceded, to what is now and what can be as we look to what our lives will be in the future. No longer tied down by the past but open to what is to come.

Death can allow me to look to God for God's will for my life moving forward, as I see it through new eyes, opened by death to greater life and service – not tied down by what was but full of hope for the future, like the freshness of a sunny Spring day!

Praying that your eyes may be opened to the rebirth and new life of the season and God's will for the future on this wonderful warm Spring day!

- Kathy LaDuca

# Roast Beef Dinner was a SUCCESS!



## Roast Beef Dinner #62

I want to thank everyone who helped make the April 28<sup>th</sup> dinner a success. It was such a great team effort - - from donating food to peeling potatoes to waiting on tables and everything in between! Our beef prep team of Mike Begnoche and Dave Buttolph make sure that the beef is top quality from dinner to dinner. And thank you to the Mary Circle for using the proceeds from their sales to buy new supplies for the kitchen. The profit from the dinner was about \$1800. The added revenue is always welcomed, but it is the group effort, warm welcome to our guests and great food that keep the customers coming back year after year.

Thank you,  
Linda Raulli

## Chicken BBQ

At Faith Journey United Methodist Church

May 12th, 2018

Opens at 11:00am till gone

Prices: \$8 for dinner / \$6 for just half chicken

Dinner includes: 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans  
and dinner roll

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!**







LITTLE STEPS  
GRADUATION  
June 1st, 2018  
9:30a.m.

Do you remember way last fall  
 When I was only just this tall?  
 Now look at me! I'm up to here!  
 And my, I've learned a lot this year!  
 In fact, you think I'm really great!  
**That's why I get to graduate!**

# Registration is Open!

Do you have a little one? Do you know a little one?

Faith Journey's Little Steps Preschool is now taking registrations for enrollment in the 2018-2019 school year. We have openings for three and four year olds. There is a \$30 registration fee and the monthly cost is \$120/month to attend 3 mornings/week or \$80/month to attend for 2 mornings/week. At this time we will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If you know of a little person who would love to join their peers for some fun, crafts, stories, and learning in a great place, have their parents contact the church office at (315) 598-0890 or stop in to pick up a registration form. You can always email little steps at [FJlittlesteps@gmail.com](mailto:FJlittlesteps@gmail.com)

## **\*\* 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

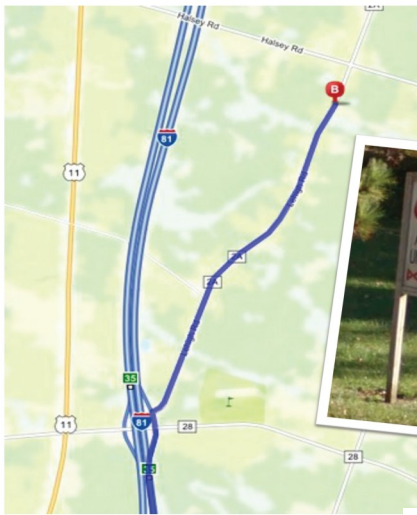


# Methodists From Around the World

**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.

# May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9 AM- 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>3</b> National Day of Prayer! 10 AM - Worship @ Elderwood 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	<b>4</b> 9 AM- 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>5</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd.
<b>6</b> 6:30 PM - Worship & Planning Meeting @ Clay	<b>7</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 10 AM - SSHP Meeting @ Clay	<b>8</b> 6 PM - Cradle & Beyond/Trustees mtg. @ Dunkin' Donuts Drum Circle - Bring food donation	<b>9</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>10</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Bldg. 10 AM - Worship @ Elderwood	<b>11</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>12</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd.
<b>13</b> Mother's Day!	<b>14</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 6:30 PM - SPRC Meeting @ Clay	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>17</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Bldg. 10 AM - Worship @ Elderwood 6:30 PM - Trustees mtg. at C&B Bldg.	<b>18</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 9:30 AM - Memorial Committee Meeting @ Clay Campus 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous Clay	<b>19</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd.
<b>20</b> Heritage Sunday! 6:30 PM - Worship & Planning Meeting @ Clay	<b>21</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 6 PM - Little Steps Mtg. @ Clay	<b>22</b> 7 PM - Ministries Council Mtg.	<b>23</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps	<b>24</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Bldg. 10 AM - Worship @ Elderwood	<b>25</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>26</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 9 AM - Druss Kususi Tutoring Program @ The PoLM Center - 201 E. Molloy Rd. Mattydale
<b>27</b> "ONE" Worship Service (everyone comes together for one service)	<b>28</b> Memorial Day! 9 AM - 12 PM - Little Steps 10 AM - Cradle & Beyond Mtg. @	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Bldg. 10 AM - Worship @ Elderwood		

## 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

**May 6:** John 15:9-17 is the continuation of the previous week's scripture. It is Jesus describing the relationship between God and us, and how God has chosen us. We will celebrate communion on this day.

**May 13:** I John 5:9-13 is the scripture for the day. It talks of being connected with God. We will celebrate Mother's Day, as well.

**May 20:** Pentecost! This celebration of the beginning of the church becomes the culmination of the continuing ministry of Jesus. Acts 2:1-21 is the scripture for the day.

**May 27:** John 3:1-17 is the story of Jesus and Nicodemus, where Jesus shares the concept of starting all over again, and having eternal life.

**\*\*We will have One Service at 10am. Location to be announced.**

# Southern Sudan Health Projects



We were honored to have Bishop Peter Joh Mayom from Malek, South Sudan, come and make a presentation on April 19th, 2018. Bishop Peter offered information about Malek, and how things are going. It is a difficult situation, but his Episcopal Diocese, and our Southern Sudan Health Project are making a difference.

One surprise was when Bishop Peter walked into the sanctuary and saw our life sized photo of Rebecca, one of our Health Care Workers, he brightened up and declared, "I know her. She is in my diocese!"

Bishop Peter will be taking 2 month's pay back to Malek to be given to our Home Health Promoters.

Funds are needed so we can continue to pay our workers.

- Rev. Bradford Hunt



## Little Steps Book Fair was a Success!

Tammy Casciano (store manager), said that Faith Journey UMC and Little Steps did a great job, especially for our first book fair. We won't know \$\$\$ until next week. Kristy Lee asked two Miss New York International 2018 young ladies (Cassadee & Shelbie Handville) to read in children area of book store, they did such a great job. The store was very busy as school spring break and a rainy day. Debbie Riggall and a Little Steps Mother volunteered at front table, Gail Wentworth and Mary Ellen Pasternak were there for duration of Book Fair. We want to thank Faith Journey family and friends that supported this book fair. We will let you know the final results soon. - Mary Ellen Pasternak



MAY 13th, 2018

**Don't forget MOM!**

*She*  
IS CLOTHED IN  
*strength*  
AND  
*dignity*  
AND SHE  
*laughs*  
WITHOUT FEAR  
OF THE FUTURE

PROVERBS 31:25

The United Methodist Church was officially formed on April 23, 1968 with the unification of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, along with the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction, a segregated group of African American congregations.

Fifty years ago, 1,300 delegates and 10,000 visitors met in Dallas, Texas on April 23, 1968 to celebrate the formation of the newly-constituted United Methodist Church. This merger of 10.3 mil-

lion Methodists and 750,000 members of the EUB Church resulted in one of the largest Protestant denominations in the world. Flags from fifty-three countries testified to the breadth of the new reality.

As we celebrate this anniversary throughout 2018, especially around Heritage Sunday on May 20, return to this page ([www.umcom.org/umc50](http://www.umcom.org/umc50)) for the latest resources to help your congregation remember this important anniversary of our church.



## Elderwood Worship Services (4800 Bear Road, Liverpool, NY. 13088)

Faith Journey is leading the worship services every Thursday morning at Elderwood, at 10 am. If you would like to come and sing, or to join in the worship, please contact the church office. Thanks goes to Donna Kennedy for her offering music for the worship. Thanks also to Marcia Zogg for filling in for Rev. Hunt on the first Thursday.



### **Thanks Marie C. Hiller!**

Marie Hiller was a part of the former Andrews branch of Faith Journey UMC. In her will, she left \$500 to the church. She left it as a gift to the church to be used as the church determines. The Charge Conference on May 6, at 2:00, will determine how the money will be used.



As Marie is in eternal life, her earthly life is remembered through this gift.

Have you remembered all that God, and the church has done for you enough to have remembered Faith Journey in your will?

### **A NOTE FROM THE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:**

Faith Journey has an active Memorial Committee whose responsibility is to receive and keep an account of those moneys donated to the church in memory of a deceased member. The Committee also maintains a Wish List of items for which memory moneys may be designated. On that list are such items as new cupboards for the kitchen, air conditioning for the sanctuary, and upgrades to the sound system. For more information about the Memorial Committee, speak to our chair, Kathy Snyder, or to Reverend Hunt.

### **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE CAMPERSHIPS:**

The Faith Journey Memorial Committee has money in the Memorial Fund designated for camperships. The committee has voted to offer camperships for the 2018 camp season in the amount of 20% of the Tier 1 cost for one of the Upper New York Conference United Methodist Church camps or Faith Journey Andy's Camp if a program becomes available. (Tier 1 is the true cost of camp and is explained in the Summer Camp 2018 booklet).

Applicants must attend Faith Journey Church, and the Memorial Committee would help accepted campers raise money toward their expenses. Anyone who does attend a camp and receives a scholarship would be asked to tell their camp story either in person at the Church services or write a written report.

There will be an application available from the Church office for anyone interested.

As a reminder, contributions are always welcome to the Memorial Committee campership fund. Thank you for your consideration.

## **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

April's unit was Go and Tell. It includes the story of the empty tomb, Paul Changes, Paul Escapes, The Church Grows and Timothy is Chosen. May's unit is Change your Hearts and Lives. This includes stories from Acts including Lydia, Paul and Silas, Shipwrecked and of course Pentecost.

## 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, although last Sunday we had 21. Children from age 2 through elementary school come to class. The class hears the lesson works on the booklets and enjoys the craft. The two-year olds spend much of their time playing with toys available in the room. Again, we are able to use the younger books and older books depending on the child's abilities. 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. We have also begun singing with this group again at their request. The kids reminded us that we used to do it every week and stopped – mostly because they didn't participate. Now they want to do it again so we sing typical Sunday School songs like Jesus Loves Me and the B-I-B-L-E, but also some songs about the Bible story written to tunes of popular little kid's songs like Mary had a Little Lamb – so that they learn the story through song and are able to sing along.

## 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.



### Progress!

- \*Flowers have been planted.
- \*Beams have arrived, and will be put in place to reduce the number of walls inside.
- \*Some of the wiring has been inspected.
- \*Heating and air conditioning bids are coming in.
- \*Roofers have been hired to finish the roof.
- \*Main door is about to be installed.
- \*The house part of the building continues to be gutted.
- \*The old aluminum siding is being taken off, getting ready for repairs and vinyl siding.
- \*Work takes place every Thursday and Saturday morning, as well as other times as meets the volunteers' schedule.
- \***Help is always needed!**



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

Gifts have been given in memory of Marilyn Knoop for the windows and doors for the new building. Marilyn was a key leader over the many years of ministry of the Cradle and Beyond. It is estimated that the cost of the doors and windows is \$5900. About \$4100 has been given so far, with about \$1800 left to go. These gifts will be recognized when the building opens for Cradle and Beyond and worship.





## Food Pantry Contribution

For the Month of May Faith Journey will be collecting Paper products for The Food Pantry located at St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church in North Syracuse.



## 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