



## **Pastor's** **Page**



"Come gather 'round people  
Wherever you roam  
And admit that the waters  
Around you have grown  
And accept it that soon  
You'll be drenched to the bone.  
If your time to you  
Is worth savin'  
Then you better start swimmin'  
Or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times they are a-changin'..."

Bob Dylan 1964

I have been thinking about this song by Bob Dylan for the past couple of weeks. I realize that Dylan was talking about social change and the turbulent 1960s but I think that the overarching theme of this song is applicable to the church today. "For the times they are a-changing..."

On November 4, 2015, the Faith Journey United Methodist Church was born out of two great churches: Andrews Memorial United Methodist Church & Trinity United Methodist Church. Both churches have a rich history in mission and ministry and for many years dreamed big dreams for the future. Unfortunately, time had taken its toll on membership and finances and the need to merge and consolidate became a necessity. Mergers are never a fun process. They are long, grueling, and sometimes discouraging processes. Sometimes we do mergers correctly and other times we miss steps along the way.

Trinity United Methodist Church was born out of a merger in the 1960s. It the end result of the merger of the Euclid church and the Morgan Road church. I don't know what all the issues were with that merger but my hope is that it was born out of mission and ministry as opposed to necessity.

Churches, however, have a life cycle. They are born, they grow, and unless they adapt and change to the culture around them they will cease to exist. As United Methodists, we are terrible at adapting. We like patterns and structures. We need to be constantly listening to the culture around us and grow and adapt the message: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." We need to tell the story in new and fresh ways that open eyes. Our display screens in the sanctuary help us do that by bringing scripture to life and allowing the use of popular movie clips to enhance the sermon. We are just beginning to discover the possibilities of using the gospel message in a new and relevant way.

In 1968, the United Methodist Church was born out of a merger. That merger would be the defining moment for Methodism in the world. It all started in 1954, with merger talks between the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church. Both denominations had their roots in Wesleyan theology and the gifts that each church brought to the table were powerful; membership, money, influence, power, colleges, and seminaries. It made sense to build a denomination that would radically impact and change the world. In 1968, the merger was complete. A powerhouse denomination was born. Methodism was now a part of the mainline protestant churches. However, with the merger came a need to cleanse the church of its hurtful and racist past. The central conferences which segregated clergy black and white were abolished and geographic conferences and jurisdictions were established. But there were

other issues that weren't resolved. Theological issues are still being debated.

As I write this article the Special Session of General Conference of the United Methodist Church is meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The special session of the General Conference has been called to discuss and act on the Bishop's commission on a "Way Forward." There are three plans and numerous petitions that will be voted on in hopes of restructuring the church in order to settle the issue of human sexuality and the place of LGBTQ individuals within the church. I have no idea what is going to happen with the United Methodist Church. I am not a prognosticator.

What I do know and am confident of is this: God has not brought us this far to leave us or forsake us. I believe in the move of the Holy Spirit and the power of God to build bridges and work towards unity as opposed to division and strife. I am confident that the mission and ministry will continue no matter how we resolve our differences of belief. Make no mistake this will not be the final word on this subject.

On March 3rd we will welcome home the 12:30 worship service and the members that have been so faithful to be present at Pitcher Hill Community Church for the past two years. They have been present with their financial gifts, time, and talents. We will conclude our services at the Pitcher Hill Community Church on February 24th and begin worshipping at the Morgan Road campus. These are your brothers and sisters in Christ. It is your privilege to get to know them and welcome them into the life of faith. We will continue to have three services 9:30, 11:00, and 12:30. Maryna Mazhukhova will continue her ministry of music leading the 12:30 service.

Be prepared for the faith journey of a lifetime. In the coming months, you will see the continued vision for Faith Journey United Methodist Church develop in new ways. "For the times they are a-changin'..." We will adapt and overcome our challenges together in grace and humility. There is power in together, never underestimate what two or three can do when gathered in Christ's name. May God have mercy on our United Methodist Church and on the faithful members who carry on its mission and ministry.

God Bless you and your family this day, now and forever more.

In Christ,  
**Rev. Daniel Bradley**



### **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 the 9:30 service. Practice is every Sunday morning at 9:00am in the sanctuary. Please contact Jake Melnyk at [roadoutofhere@gmail.com](mailto:roadoutofhere@gmail.com) for more information.

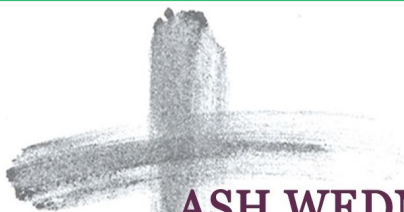
# What's Happening

## MARCH: Women's History Month

1st - World of Prayer  
 3rd - 12:30 Services are @ Clay location starting this day.  
 6th - Ash Wednesday, Supper @6pm, Worship @7:30pm  
 10th - Daylight Savings Time Begins  
 10th- Girl Scout Sunday  
 17th - St. Patrick's Day  
 26th - Daniel Bradley's B-day  
 30th - Cradle & Beyond Rummage Sale  
 31st - UMCOR Sunday  
 Sundays in Lent: 10, 17, 24, 31

## ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6TH



## ASH WEDNESDAY

God of ashes, through our blackened foreheads and broken hearts proclaim to the world that we are not alone. Make us witnesses of grieving well. Open our hands and hearts to hold one another's brokenness until we are ready to turn it over to you, for healing and new life. Amen.

*Lent*



Lent is a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial traditionally observed by Catholics and some Protestant denominations. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday.

*got Questions?*



## MARCH 6th begins our 40-day Lenten Journey!

We will gather at 6:00pm for a soup & sandwich supper and then at 7:30pm we will worship together and receive ashes which reminds us of our act of faith and devotion to be in prayer, fasting, and practicing self-discipline. We will journey together as companions in Christ following the way of Grace in Luke's Gospel. Together we will experience this lent as an uplifting season of faith leading us to the cross and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 10th!



World Day of Prayer!

*HAPPY St. Patrick's Day!*



**UMCOR**

United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR Sunday.

March 31st!





# MARCH SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



## MARCH

### 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 bible out and write out the scripture for that day. It is a proven fact that when you write something down is 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.

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 - Joel 2:12-14

Day 2 - Joshua 1:5-9

Day 3 - James 1:2-8

Day 4 - James 1:9-12

Day 5 - James 1:13-18

Day 6 - Ephesians 2:4-10

Day 7 - Ephesians 4:22-28

Day 8 - Ephesians 4:29-32

Day 9 - Romans 15:1-6

Day 10 - Psalm 91:1-4

Day 11 - Psalm 91:5-8

Day 12 - Psalm 91:9-13

Day 13 - Psalm 91:14-16

Day 14 - Galatians 5:13-15

Day 15 - Galatians 6:1-6

Day 16 - Galatians 6:7-10

Day 17 - Psalm 62:1-5

Day 18 - Psalm 62:6-10

Day 19 - Psalm 20:1-5

Day 20 - Psalm 61:1-5

Day 21 - Isaiah 43:1-7

Day 22 - Hebrews 6:13-16

Day 23 - Hebrews 6:17-20

Day 24 - Matthew 5:13-16

Day 25 - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

Day 26 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

Day 27 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

Day 28 - Matthew 21:21-22

Day 29 - James 3:13-15

Day 30 - James 3:16-18

Day 31 - Choose your own verse

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

- Psalm 119:18



# Dear Lord,

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD, NOT MINE.** I give you my calendar, my many to-do lists, my appointments and my plans. I don't know what this day will bring, but you do. Help me to remember that I plan in pencil and you plan in ink. Remind me that your plans are always, always, always best.

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD.** I pray that I truly see each and every person you place in my path today and that if there is something they need that I can provide, I pray that it's super obvious and I don't miss it in my haste to get to the next task on my list. Help me remember that loving people is my first job, always and that as you call me to act that I am obedient. Help me to never question your call and instead respond immediately.

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD.** I pray that I travel through today with your strength, not my own. Because on my own I am weak and imperfect. I pray that when I get tired and weary today that I am reminded to be still and rest in your great and mighty power.

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD.** Even when I face hard things and feel overwhelmed, (and I know I WILL face hard thing) help me remember that if you called me to it, you will equip me for it. Help me to step out in faith, even when it's scary and uncomfortable.

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD.** Help me to extend grace and forgiveness to those around me and remind me how desperately I need grace myself. Thank you for freely forgiving me.

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD.** When I start to fear and worry, remind me that fear is NOT from you. Help me to look for good in this world, especially when it seems dark and scary- because there is good.

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD.** Help me to remember that your opinion is the only opinion that matters. That serving you well is what truly matters, not what the world says about me.

**THIS DAY IS YOURS LORD.** Use me as you see fit today. May you be pleased with me today.



In the last several weeks the word “CONNECT” has been one of those words that have just kept showing up in conversations and also with me and my family. Since we are creating a vision board it is one of the topics, “To Connect”, not only with one another but with family/friends. To connect people with God and to one another. Some people feel disconnected from God, some from the church family, some from friends and family, and others from society itself. We as a society have witnessed the consequences of strong connections that make room for others and some that don’t. It’s a mess out there. We need to feel connected, it’s the core of the human experience.

So, where do we start? We start by strengthening our connection with God. We put that relationship at the core of our very being. We wrestle with the truth that we are loved unconditionally and that we are a valuable child of God with meaning and purpose for our days on this beautiful earth. We make time and effort to nurture this relationship. We read books, worship, sit quietly with God, and practice different types of prayer. We listen to others and their experiences and most importantly, we just ask God to pull us close into a relationship with him. We all get caught up sometimes with worldly items, material things, approval from someone or the “likes” on Facebook. Sometimes that desire gets smothered by our day-to-day schedules that don’t make time to nurture that connection with the Holy Spirit.

Let’s all make an effort to reconnect with God this year. Let us give that relationship the time and attention it deserves and that we need as well. Get your Bible out and write down scripture, read it out loud, put down on your calendar time to spend reading, learning, listening to the word. Look at the March Scripture Writing and do something for yourself...CONNECT!

Connect with the one who loved you first!

**- Mechele Wright**



# CALLING *all* COOKS



I need RECIPES! Do you have a favorite to share? Just email me at [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org) or place in church office. I would love to share for all to enjoy! Thank you.

**ADVERTISING:** Do You want to advertise your business? Contact the church office 315-652-9186 or email at [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)

**SAW Photography** - Do you need pictures done for your birthday, anniversary, party, wedding, close-ups, family portraits? Then contact Auston Wright 315-506-0900. Schedule an appt. today.

**M.A.L.T Designs** - Custom made dining tables, bedframes, shelves, end tables, benches, side tables & more. Auston Wright custom wood-creator. More info. 315-506-0900

## Recipe by: Mechele Wright - Pizza Pot Pie

### INGREDIENTS

½ lb. Italian Sausage  
1/2 Cup Chopped green peppers & onions  
1 cup mozzarella cheese  
1/2lb. Refrigerated pizza dough  
1 tbsp. olive oil  
1 tbsp. parmesan cheese, grated



### DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Spray 6 ramekins with spray, coat evenly.
3. Cook sausage in skillet, add vegetables, cook on medium heat until sausage is browned. Remove from skillet from heat; stir in pizza sauce. Spoon into ramekins, top with mozzarella cheese.
4. Cut pizza dough into 6 pieces; roll each into 4 1/2" round on lightly floured surface. Press 1 round over each ramekin, press lightly. Brush with oil and sprinkle with parmesan.
5. Cut small slit on top of each crust to vent. Place on foil-covered baking sheet and bake 25-30 min.



**E-mail!**

Do **YOU** want to be on the FJUMC email list? Please contact the church office at [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org). If you know of someone else who like to be added, please have them contact Mechele Wright at church office 315-652-9186 or email.

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 church office.

# March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> <u>World day of prayer</u> 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>2</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
<b>3</b> *Communion Sunday	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan @ Clay Campus	<b>6</b> - <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Soup/Sandwich Supper @6pm, Worship Service @7:30pm	<b>7</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 7 PM - SPRC Meeting @ Clay	<b>8</b> 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>9</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building.
<b>10</b> *Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6 PM - Drum Circle @ Clay, bring food donation 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan Clay	<b>13</b> 6-7 PM - <b>FREE</b> 8-week Financial Class	<b>14</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 1 PM - Mary Circle @ Clay *Pastor on Vacation	<b>15</b> 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus *Pastor on Vacation *Mechele on Vacation	<b>16</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building *Pastor on Vacation *Mechele on Vacation
<b>17</b> <u>St. Patrick's Day</u> *Pastor on Vacation *Mechele on Vacation	<b>18</b> *Pastor on Vacation *Mechele on Vacation	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan @ Clay Campus *Pastor on Vacation *Mechele on Vacation	<b>20</b> 6-7 PM - <b>FREE</b> 8-week Financial Class *Mechele on Vacation	<b>21</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building *Mechele on Vacation	<b>22</b> 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus *Mechele on Vacation	<b>23</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building *Mechele on Vacation
<b>24/31</b> 24th - 7 PM - Worship Planning 31st - UMCOR Sunday offering	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan @ Clay Campus	<b>27</b> 6-7 PM - <b>FREE</b> 8-week Financial Class	<b>28</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	<b>29</b> 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	<b>30</b> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building

## Sunday Services Schedule

9:30 AM - Contemporary Worship @ Clay

11 AM - Traditional Worship @ Clay

12:30 PM - Traditional Worship @ Clay







During February the theme was Family Wisdom. Sessions include – Families Remember God, Family Traditions, A Family's Faith, and Family Proverbs. Lent starts in March so the focus will primarily be on Jesus parables, Holy Week and the Passion. Lessons include The Stories of the Lost, The Forgiving Father, The Two Debtors, The Last Supper and In the Garden.

Classes continue for all groups – the children at Clay, the Karennis, the Sudanese and the Nepalis. We all use the same United Methodist curriculum – especially important for new refugee congregations so that the people have a better understanding of what United Methodists believe. Crafts, coloring pages and worksheets help to reinforce the lesson. It's especially fun to watch the children work together or challenge each other to finish the worksheets. Some children really love working on the crafts and even the youngest who aren't able to do much of it for themselves want one to take home. Some groups have the chance to sing some favorite children's church songs. We also work with the refugee groups to make sure they learn the Lord's Prayer in English.

There have been more children attending the Clay Sunday School more regularly. We now often have two or three children in Sunday School – although the younger ones often prefer to play than to do the lessons, they are being exposed to our faith as they play. **-Kathy LaDuca**

### **DRUSS KUSUSI - A program that tutors our New World Ministries children**

We had two weeks of Druss Kususi during February due to the school break. There was lower attendance due to lack of rides, weather and people not wanting to get going on Saturday mornings. However, we continued to work on skills and cooking for the kids that wanted to.

It's important for us to start the morning with snack so that they aren't hungry and can concentrate on what we are doing. When we are no longer hungry it is important to look at what happened during the week that was good. I insist they come up with one thing that happened during the week that was good – even if it is sleeping in or playing a game. The adults also have to think of something which helps the children to realize that even when we have trouble coming up with an answer there is always something worth being thankful for that happened during the week. Then it's time for prayer.

Cooking is a good thing for the kids. Both boys and girls get a chance to learn cooking skills – which is not really part of their culture. This month we made flavored cupcakes using strawberries for some and mint extract. The kids enjoy homemade sweets. We also made lazy man's lasagna with ravioli.

Academic skills are also important and the primary reason we are there. Math and English worksheets that have themes which are appropriate to the season, holiday or something we are focused on helps to make working on skills more fun. One week the kids from one of the families brought a lot of homework they needed help with. This is the best as we are actually working on what they are doing in school.

We end with lunch at which time we are able to share the food that was prepared if it is ready. Otherwise the kids get to take it home and share it with their families. Food is an important part of any culture and eating together allows for time to relax and enjoy what we are eating and spending time together. During March, barring any weather issues we are hoping to meet all five weeks.

If you are interested in joining us and tutoring please talk with Kathy LaDuca. No special skills or talents are needed. If you want to help out with the cost of the food you are welcome to donate a gift certificate to Price Chopper or ask Kathy or Linda what might be needed. **-Kathy LaDuca**



## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - MARCH

"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." ~Isaiah 61:11



## Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Are you ready to wear your GREEN? You don't want to get pinched, do you? Me and my family take a Cruise Vacation every year and the cruise lands on St. Patrick's Day...we wear green, we eat green food and wear green hair and beads. So, this year we have all of our green stuff ready to go. Do you do this at your home and celebrate with your family?

### Shamrock Shake

- 2 cups vanilla ice cream
- 1 1/4 cups low-fat milk
- 1/4 tsp. mint extract (not peppermint)
- 8 drops green food coloring
- Whipped cream
- Cherry

-for thicker, mintier shake, add only 1 cup of milk!

### Directions:

1. Mix all ingredients in blender and make sure you taste to see if you need more milk, ice cream or extract. This is to your liking.
2. Put into two 12-ounce glasses and top with whipped cream and cherry.
3. ENJOY!



# The Bulletin Board

## EXERCISE & FUN!!!

We have had so much fun getting our bodies and minds fit while laughing and sharing in fellowship. Get Fit @ FJ meets in the sanctuary at 6:30 - 7:00 on Tuesday evenings. There is plenty of space for more people, so grab your sneakers, comfortable clothes and water bottle and come enjoy time with friends while getting your body / mind a workout. We'll be talking in February about a mission project to engage in over Lent - so come and share your ideas too.



## CRADLE & BEYOND "GINORMOUS RUMMAGE SALE"

Faith Journey United Methodist Church  
8396 Morgan Road, Clay, NY. 13041

Office: 315-652-9186

Saturday, March 30th (9am-2pm)

Back of church in Fellowship Hall area

"GINORMOUS"  
RUMMAGE  
SALE

40 BAGS IN 40 DAYS



A Lenten challenge to  
declutter and simplify

### FJUMC Lenten Clean-up / Clean-out

The trustees are working on a FJUMC Lenten Clean-up / Clean-out challenge. Lent consists of 40 days - therefore, there will be 40 opportunities to Clean-up / Clean-out

our church space. Stay tuned for details and be ready to start decluttering and beautifying the Clay Campus beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 6).





# Cradle & Beyond

## 7778 Brewerton Road

So much progress has been done at the building!

**In the retail space:** the walls are primed in all rooms, ceiling insulation is about ½ complete and the drop ceiling frame is being installed in the former ‘garage’ space. We have contracted with a plumber and are in the process of obtaining a permit for the plumbing and making necessary alterations to meet ADA standards in the bathroom - after this is completed we will be ready for the plumbing to be inspected.

**In the house (new worship / meeting area):** the outside walls have new plywood and house wrap on the back wall, upper side wall (looking over retail space) and ½ the front of the house. The old chimney blocks have been removed and beams in the upstairs have been prepared so that the space can be ‘opened up’. Windows will soon be framed and plans to run the electricity are in the works. A business plan is being created by the Cradle & Beyond committee - this will create the foundation on how the retail space will operate. Please keep the dedicated work crew and the Cradle and Beyond committee members in your prayers as they continue to dedicate their time and energy in working to create this into an amazing FJUMC space.



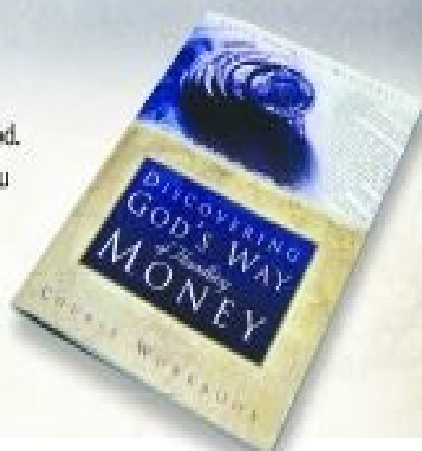


CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES

# DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY *of Handling* MONEY VIDEO SERIES

In this eight-week series, you will learn the profound impact that managing money has on your relationship with God. Your faithfulness will be rewarded as you discover and apply God's practical and life-changing financial principles.

Each participant will use a course workbook during the study.



## TOPICS COVERED ARE

- INTRODUCTION
- DEBT
- COUNSEL
- HONESTY
- GIVING
- WORK
- SAVING AND INVESTING
- CHILDREN

## REGISTRATION / EVENT INFORMATION

This is a **FREE** eight-week class which will be held at the Clay Campus on Wednesday Evenings starting February 6th and March from 6-7:00pm.

This will be led by Pastor Daniel and Mary Bradley.



FAITH JOURNEY UMC & CRADLE & BEYOND want to “THANK YOU” for your advertising, help & volunteering, set-up, working with customers, contributions with clothes, items, monetary funds, baking, soups and much more with the Rummage Sale on February 16th. We had a line out the back of church and people were just waiting to get in...what a wonderful site it was. We sold so many items, soup/sandwich combos, baked items, furniture, the list goes on and we made over \$1200. God is good!

Also, a HUGE “THANK YOU” for coming to Maryna’s concert, we collected over \$250 for Cradle & Beyond on February 15th.

We can’t do it without all of you helping and contributing.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

- Faith Journey UMC



For the month of **MARCH** we will be collecting CANNED CHICKEN for Sacred Heart Food Pantry.



### TIME FOR CHANGES!

12:30 Services at Pitcher Hill Community Church will end on February 24th, 2019. Starting March 3rd all worship services will be held at Faith Journey United Methodist Church, Clay Campus. Let's welcome all our brothers and sisters home to FJUMC!



## *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. Daniel J. Bradley  
Kathy LaDuca - Christian Education  
Maryna Mazhukhova - Musician  
Daniel Williams - Musician  
Jake Melnyk - Musician  
Mechele Wright - Office Manager  
Sean Townsend - Custodian