



Pastor's **Page**



Dear Church Family,

Grace & Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus!

The greatest miracle of Easter is the resurrection of Jesus. Without that miracle, we would be lost in our helpless state of sin and death. We would have no connection with God. Thank God that God gave his only begotten Son to be the ultimate sacrifice on the cross for our sins. "Jesus came that we might have life...abundant life" John 10:10.

This Lent has been a roller coaster of emotions. As a church, we have been going through the birth pains of cleaning up errors that were made in the past. We have been working hard at identifying areas where we need to make cuts in our budget and ministries. It has been challenging. Through all of this, we are coming together as Faith Journey United Methodist Church for the glory of God the Father.

On a personal note, I have been in turmoil over my father's illness and his need to be hospitalized. As I write this, he is still in the hospital and not doing well. I would welcome your prayers for my father and my mother, Dawn & Robert.

On Palm Sunday, I came to worship with a heavy heart. As a church, we were facing a shortfall of \$16,000 and back due bills. I was frustrated. I was afraid for our church. The problem seemed insurmountable. But still, I came in faith believing that God could work a miracle. I was honest and transparent. I told the truth about where we were at that present moment and where we were headed. I challenged the congregation to raise the capital we needed to meet our expenses for April. Last evening, I received the report from Linda Rauli our treasurer that **\$26, 697.96** was raised through pledges, gifts, and the roast beef dinner in April. This is **\$10,000** over what I was asking for. Through this miraculous giving, we are now able to pay our bills and get caught up with our Annual Conference expenses.

PRAISE GOD!

I want to Thank You for your faithfulness in responding to the call. You have helped begin what I would like to call the **FAITH JOURNEY MIRACLE**. We need to keep this miracle going! As a church, we cannot **thrive** without your dedicated support. God is blessing this church through your tithes and offerings!

At present, our budget for the church is \$249,000. We need about \$21,000 a month to meet the needs. We will be cutting that budget in 2019 significantly. In July, the Faith Journey Ministry Council will release a budget for 2019-2020. We will begin to shift our budget year from January to December and will focus on a July-July

budgeting process that will coincide with the Annual Conference appointment year. This will give us a better picture of where we are as a church.

As Faith Journey grows, we are asking the question WHY do we exist? In a draft of a vision statement, the following has been expressed:

"The Faith Journey United Methodist Church exists to transform lives for Jesus Christ. Its holistic vision is that people would be lifted from scarcity to an abundant life full of faith, hope, and love so that they may truly transform their communities and the world."

To accomplish that vision, we needed to adopt some guiding principles. The following guiding principles were adopted at our April 13th Strategic Planning Session:

Principle 1: Transparency- "In everything we do as the Faith Journey United Methodist Church, we will do out in the open. Minutes from meetings will be kept and will be accessible. Budgets and financial statement will be available upon request. In house audits of all accounts will be done yearly, and we will comply with all aspects of the 2016 Book of Discipline and our Annual Conference policies. There will be no secrets kept from the congregation except for pastor/parishioner confidentiality and the confidentiality of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee."

Principle 2: Excellence- "Excellence will be our native tongue. We will do everything with excellence, or we will not do it at all. From our worship on Sunday morning to the work at the Cradle and Beyond building. Even our dinners and barbecues will be done in such a way as that by doing these things Christ will be glorified."

Principle 3: Honor- "We will honor God in everything we do and say. We will show honor to one another and continually listen for wisdom and understanding. We will treat one another as better than ourselves and put the needs of other people first. We will be humble and always remember that the positions that we hold are not for our gratification but the glorification of others in Jesus Christ."

Principle 4: Integrity- "As a people of faith we will conduct ourselves with the highest moral integrity available. We will comply with all Annual Conference policies and the 2016 Book of Discipline to be above reproach. We will be respectful of staff, pastor, pastor's family, and members of the congregation. We will maintain the highest of standards when relating to one another, creating an environment where sexual harassment, racial bigotry, and immoral behavior of any type is not permitted. Our policies will reflect John Wesley's first rule: Do No Harm.

Principle 5: Biblical Authority- "We recognize the scriptures of the old and new testament as the inspired word of God. All 66 books of the Bible are the authority which will guide our church and be the foundation of all that we do as the Church of Jesus Christ.

Principle 6: Inclusion- "As the church of Jesus Christ we are an open and inclusive church of LGBTQIA persons. This position is in stark contrast with our current denominational stance on homosexuality which states: "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching..." (See Paragraph 161 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.) We will continue to honor their presence with us and support and sustain them in their Christian walk. "...We affirm God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons." (Excerpt Par. 161h.) We will not discriminate in employment or ministry positions within the church recognizing that all have gifts for service in the kingdom of God.

These principles are the foundation that will undergird all we do as a church. I pray that you will hold the leadership of this church accountable to these principles and me. We will work to grow in grace and continue our mission of "Seeking, Serving, and Sharing God with others."

I am putting out the call for individuals who want to make an impact on this world. I am looking for strategic thinkers with a heart for Jesus Christ! I invite you to contact me about serving God and being part of the Faith Journey Miracle. Or who knows, I may just call you. I hope and pray your response will be YES!

May God bless you this Easter Season as you journey in faith. I pray that God will pour his blessings on your family and friends that you may know Jesus fuller. I pray that your children and your grandchildren will know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Go in grace being filled with the love of God the Father through Jesus Christ the risen Son of God.

In Christ,

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley



What's Happening

MAY: CHRISTIAN HOME MONTH

5th - Cinco De Mayo!!! Native American Ministries Sunday

11th - **Chicken BBQ** and "**May Day**" **Rumage Sale**

12th - Mother's Day!!

18th - Armed Forces Day - Thank you for Serving!

24th - Aldersgate Day

27th - Memorial Day - **OFFICE CLOSED**

31st - Annual Conference

What is Aldersgate Day?

Aldersgate Day is celebrated on May 24 (or the Sunday closest) to commemorate the day in 1738 when John Wesley experienced assurance of his salvation. Wesley reluctantly attended a group meeting that evening on Aldersgate Street in London. As he heard a reading from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans, he felt his "heart strangely warmed." Wesley wrote in his journal that at about 8:45 p.m. "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Let's HONOR Our Fallen Soldiers!

Let's observe Memorial Day, May 27th, 2019 with gratitude and honor for those who have served and who are serving our beautiful country! Thank you for your service!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

Don't forget Mom this May 12th, 2019! Let's celebrate our mother's on this special day and take them out to a movie, lunch or a special spa day!

Happy Mother's Day to all the beautiful moms!



Chicken BBQ

Come join us at Faith Journey UMC for our first Chicken BBQ of 2019!

May 11th, 2019

Time: 11:00am till gone...It goes fast...get there early!

Prices: \$8.50 for dinner / \$6.50 for just half chicken

Dinner includes: 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans and dinner roll. Super Yummy! What...for \$8.50 you get all of this...that's amazing!

MAY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



MAY

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 it resonates more fully than just reading it. So, write it out and speak those words into reality, this will also help with memorization of the word of God and your daily walk with Him.

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 - Isaiah 41:8-10

Day 2 - Matthew 11:25-27

Day 3 - Matthew 11:28-30

Day 4 - Philippians 4:6-7

Day 5 - 1 Peter 5:6-7

Day 6 - John 16:32-33

Day 7 - 1 John 4:16-18

Day 8 - Hebrews 13:5-6

Day 9 - Romans 8:14-17

Day 10 - Romans 8:18-19

Day 11 - Psalm 62:1-4

Day 12 - Psalm 62:5-8

Day 13 - Isaiah 35:3-4

Day 14 - Psalm 94:18-19

Day 15 - Psalm 118:5-7

Day 16 - Jeremiah 29:11-14

Day 17 - Deuteronomy 31:6

Day 18 - Psalm 56:1-4

Day 19 - John 14:26-27

Day 20 - Psalm 23:1-6

Day 21 - Joshua 1:5-9

Day 22 - Luke 12:22-26

Day 23 - Luke 12:27-31

Day 24 - Luke 12:32-34

Day 25 - Psalm 55:22-23

Day 26 - Psalm 46:1-3

Day 27 - Mark 4:39-40

Day 28 - Zephaniah 3:16-17

Day 29 - Psalm 91:1-6

Day 30 - Psalm 91:7-12

Day 31 - Psalm 91:13-16

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

- Psalm 119:18





Do you have a child or grandchild who needs something to do this summer? United Methodist Summer Camps give children a place to go and have fun along with growing in their faith!

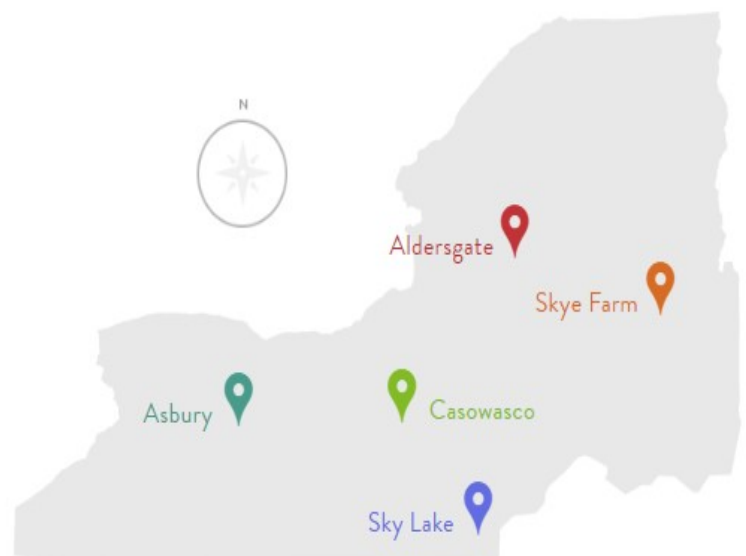
There are many different options available to children of different ages. There are one day camps for children as young as 4 years old at Aldersgate to camps for Senior High students. There are Father-Son and Mother-Daughter camps, family camps, and camps for people of all ages with special needs.

There are camps that give kids a chance to ride horses, learn survival skills, cook, participate spend time doing art, music and dance. There are Lego camps slime camps sport camps and water camps. There are X-games camps, Minecraft camps and night owls camps as well as Wizard schools and fishing camps and tech camps. There's something for everyone while learning, hearing and knowing that there is a God who loves them and wants a relationship with them.

Casowasco is our local camp located in Moravia. There are also four other Methodist Camps in New York state. Why not encourage your child or grandchild to spend a week or two this summer at one of our beautiful camps. For more information you will find brochures near the entrance of church or go to [camps and retreats.org/2019](http://campsandretreats.org/).

-Kathy LaDuca

Website: <http://campsandretreats.org/>



mark  your **Calendar**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

FAITH JOURNEY UMC will have a Day of Mission on Saturday, June 1st 2019, Stay tuned for more information!!

★ **MOVIE NIGHT** ★
Admit One

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT:

MOVIE: FIELD OF DREAMS

DATE: MAY 3rd, 2019 (FRIDAY NIGHT)

TIME: 6:30pm

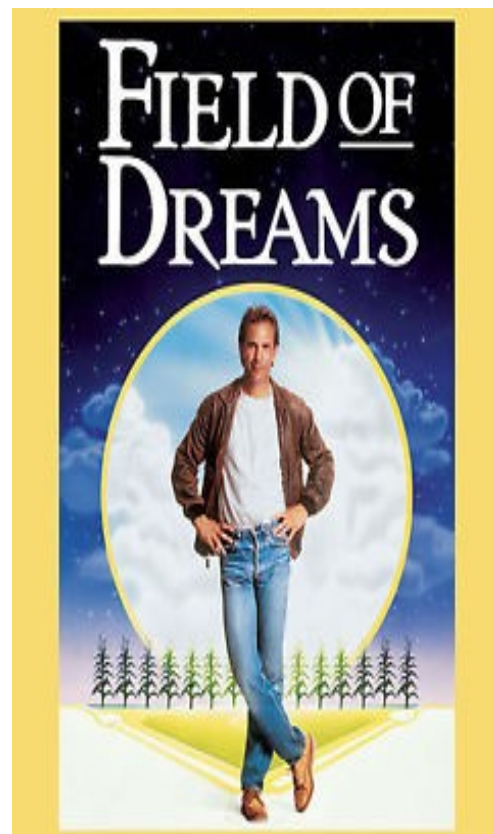
ADMISSION: FREE

FOOD: PIZZA & POPCORN PROVIDED

(Please bring your own drinks & snacks)

DISCUSSION: Following Movie there will be a discussion!

PLEASE RSVP—315-652-9186 or email @ fjoffice@fjumc.org



CALLING *all* COOKS



I need RECIPES! Do you have a favorite to share? Just email me at 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

LMW Home - I offer cleaning, organization, redecorating, interior design and design services for your home. Please call Mechele Wright if you need any of these services done and for a free estimate @ 315-727-3741.

“LIKE ME” <https://www.facebook.com/LMWHome>

Recipe by: Linda Smith - Remarkable Rhubarb Bites

INGREDIENTS

2 cups diced rhubarb
1 cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
1 egg
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. vanilla

DIRECTIONS

1. Mix rhubarb & 1/2 cup sugar, set aside.
2. Cream shortening, 1/2 cup sugar & brown sugar.
Add egg & stir in baking soda, salt, cinnamon & flour.
3. Stir in vanilla, then rhubarb mixture.
4. Place batter into a greased & floured 9x13 pan
@350 degrees for 40-45 min.
5. Let cool and sprinkle with confectioners sugar.



E-mail!

Do **YOU** want to be on the FJUMC email list? Please contact the church office at 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.

MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 6:30 PM - "Field of Dreams" Movie Night, pizza & popcorn provided. RSVP!	4 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
5 <i>Cinco De Mayo</i> COMMUNION	6	7 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan @ Clay Campus	8	9 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building 1 PM - Mary Circle @ Clay	10 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	11 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building. 11 AM - Chicken BBQ 9 AM - 1 PM - Rumage Sale
12 <i>Mother's Day</i>	13	14 6 PM - Drum Circle @ Clay, bring food donation 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan @	15 1:00 PM - SSHP Mtg. @ Gino & Joes. If you want to eat come at 12:30 PM.	16 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	17 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	18 <i>Armed Forces Day</i> 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
19	20	21 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan @ Clay Campus	22 <i>Pastor in Training</i>	23 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	24 <i>Aldersgate Day</i> 7 PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	25 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
26	27 <i>Memorial Day - Office Closed</i>	28 6:30 PM - Get Fit with Beth Jordan @ Clay Campus	29	30 9 AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building	31 <i>Annual Conference</i>	

MAY

Sunday Services Schedule

9:30 AM - Contemporary Worship @ Clay

11 AM - Traditional Worship @ Clay

12:30 PM - Traditional Worship @ Clay





During April the focus was on Holy Week and Easter. Lessons include Peter Pretends, Jesus Enters Jerusalem, and Jesus Lives. The focus during May will be Family Friends. Session will include Best Friends - 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 20:1-42; Courageous Friends Daniel 3:1-30; The Four Friends - Mark 2:1-12 and Prayerful Friends - Acts 9:36-43.

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 how United Methodists understand the Bible. 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.

Easter Sunday we had one worship service and no Sunday School. However, I prepared some booklets with worksheets about Easter and Linda brought a craft and set up a table in the back of the sanctuary with the booklets, craft, crayons and colored pencils so that children attending the service could have an option of something to do if they were having trouble sitting.

--Kathy LaDuca

BIRTHDAY WISH REQUEST

SSSSSSHHHHHH....DON'T TELL!!

Jeanne Sharp is turning **90** on June 19th. Faith Journey UMC wants to do a "CARD SHOWER" for Jeanne, requested by her daughter, Karen.

Please mail Jeanne Sharp a special 90th birthday card **BEFORE June 19th** @ address below:

**Jeanne Sharp
3584 Redhead Terrace
Liverpool, NY. 13090**

THANK YOU!!!





SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - MAY

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and so that your joy may be complete. - John 15:11



MAY DAY!

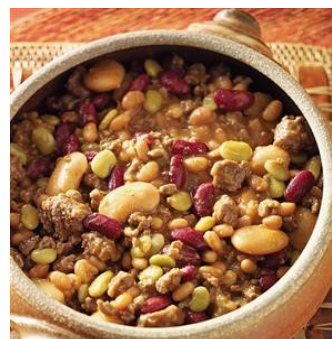
May is here and so are the beautiful flowers, bees, corn on the cob, and veggies!!! I love May, it's the start to something new by planting our garden and opening our pool, the beginning to a wonderful summer. God always plants a new seed in your soul, make sure you water it, let it grow and see what beautiful and wonderful things come out of that!!

Cowboy Calico Beans From: Mary Ellen Pasternak

- 1lb. Ground beef
- 1 lg. sweet onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 3 tbsp. cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp. yellow mustard
- 1 can (16oz.) butter beans, drained
- 1 can (16oz.) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15oz.) pork and beans
- 1 can (15 1/4 oz.) lima beans, rinsed and drained

Directions:

1. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over med. Heat until no longer pink; drain.
2. Transfer to a 3 qt. slow cooker. Combine the brown sugar, ketchup, vinegar and mustard; add to meat mixture. Stir in the beans. Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours or until heated through.



The Bulletin Board

MARY CIRCLE

May 9th at 1:00p.m., Clay



There will be **ONE** worship service on May 26th @9:30 in the beautiful New Building in North Syracuse.



Chicken BBQ

Come join us at
Faith Journey UMC
for our first Chicken BBQ of
2019!

May 11th, 2019

Time: 11:00am till gone...It goes fast...get there early!

Prices: \$8.50 for dinner / \$6.50 for just half chicken

Dinner includes: 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans and dinner roll. Super Yummy! What...for \$8.50 you get all of this...that's amazing!

Cradle & Beyond "MAY DAY" Sale

RUMMAGE
SALE



Come join us at Faith Journey UMC
for our, "May Day" Sale

May 11th from 9-1pm

Don't miss out on the wonderful items that Cradle & Beyond has. There will be a bake sale, clothes, children's items, shoes, furniture, home décor, holiday items, and much more! Come early as this stuff goes by fast!



Faith Journey UMC will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, May 27th, 2019. Thank you for serving.

MAY 12th, 2019

DON'T FORGET
to *call your*
MOM
Happy Mother's Day



Cradle & Beyond

7778 Brewerton Road

Cradle & Beyond is coming along great!!! All lights and ceiling grid are installed and tiles to be installed soon!! All Flooring was donated...Yay!!! Thank you for the donations.

In May we'll be painting - work continues every Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9-12. There will be added evening hours for the month of May so that all painting can get done.





GET FIT with Beth Jordan

SUMMER IS COMING!!! Are you ready for the summer season? Do you hide from bathroom mirrors? Well...if you are ready to get rid of that extra little weight or just stay in shape, please join Beth Jordan for, "GET FIT" on Tuesdays @6:30-7pm here at Faith Journey UMC, in the sanctuary.





For the month of **MAY** we will be collecting **Toilet Paper, Dish Soap and Tissues** for St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church 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

Website: 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