



Pastor's **Page**



The Stepping Stone

January 2021

31:6 Be strong and courageous! Do not fear or tremble before them, for the Lord your God is the one who is going with you. He will not fail you or abandon you!" – Moses to Joshua, Deuteronomy 31:6

January 8, 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ! Happy New Year!

2021 is here, and we are witnesses to Jesus Birth. The Lord of Lord's, the Prince of peace, has come into this world to set things right. As witnesses to Jesus' birth, our attitude and focus should be on the things we can see and understand to be God's work in our world.

How is God working in your life? What good are you seeing?

I know how hard it can be to see God in the middle of a storm; the key is not to give up but keep looking for the light in the distance.

Early on in my ministry career, I worked at a small summer camp called Camp Findley. It is on Findley Lake. We still return there every year for vacations and retreats. The lake is about five miles all the way around with an Island in the middle. On the island is a summer home with boat docks. As a camp counselor, we were asked not to go behind the island with the Sunfish Sailboats. The wind shear was just too much for the little craft. One Saturday morning at about 7 am, I got out on the lake with the sailboat. It was perfectly calm. As I went behind the island with the craft, attempting to go around it, a storm came out of nowhere. There was lightning and wind and waves. I was all alone on the lake.

There was nothing I could do. I lowered my sail and removed the mast, and sat there in the middle of the storm. Waves kept crashing over the boat's bow, and I was being pushed into the break wall on the island. I began to cry and pray. Soon after, my Camp Director, Rev. Gary Greenwald, came out with the ski boat and threw me a rope. He pulled me into shore just as the wind and the lightning came to an end. After a stern scolding, we hauled the boat ashore and packed up the mast and its sails. I was humiliated and ashamed for not listening to the rules.

God works in ways that I don't understand. Where did that storm come from on this calm summer's morning? Why then and there? Was God trying to get my attention? Was this God's way of saying that I need to pray? I don't know. I know this; if God wants to make a point, God will and use any means necessary.

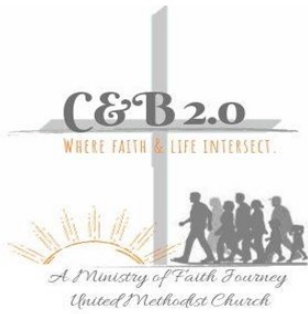
I never expected that the first week of 2021 would bring us an assault on the Capitol Building. I was horrified and shocked. I felt helpless. I prayed and watched. As a result of that siege, five people have died. This act of violence is inexcusable. What are we to do when we see such unrest take place? We pray. We pray like we never have before, and we reach out in faith for Jesus, who has come to set things right.

2021 has the potential to be a great year; however, it is up to us to make it great. It is up to us to go through 2021 with a positive attitude and fresh spirit that looks for God's things and not to the disasters of humanity. Being out on that lake that summer's morning taught me two things. Storms will come when we least expect them, and God is never far from us. There will be storms, winds, and waves. They will threaten to sink our sailboats, but take heart God is with us, and God will protect us.

I pray for each of you in 2021 that this year will be the best for you and your family. I pray that God will help you see the light amidst the storm and that your faith will be strengthened. I know that God will bless you and protect you in this time of uncertainty and faith challenges. You are not alone; your rescue boat is coming. Pray. Pray continually and never lose heart, for God is with you and for you.

In Christ,

Rev Daniel J. Bradley



Cradle & Beyond 2.0

7778 Brewerton Road

Location:

7778 Brewerton Rd.
Cicero, NY 13039
(Across from the Coppertop
and next to Dunkin Donuts)

Store hours:

Tuesday 4 pm - 7 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm
Thursday 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Donation Drop-off days/times:

Donations are accepted
Tuesdays from 9 am - 11 am
And anytime the store is open!

Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

A huge thank you to all those that took some time to help us at C&B over the holiday break: Gail & Jim Wentworth, Butch & Sandy Remington, Judy & Gordon Bylsma, Chad & Stefanie (Olivia, Grayson and Hudson too), Mike & Beth Jordan, Duane Simmons, Mike Begnoche, Dave Zogg, Donna Mills, Sandy Humphrey, Donna Timmerman, Eileen Englehart. We couldn't have done it without you. Looking forward to seeing your bright smiles to finish off the space and welcome customers to C&B in 2021.

Please take a moment to check out all the work that has been done in the 'house' – we now have a working furnace and plumbing, the hanging of insulation and sheetrock in the space is now complete and the sheetrock is being finished.

Thank you to Raulli Steele for donating and installing a beautiful railing which completes the look of the kitchenette area. Still needs finishing before we open: bathroom, painting, floor and ramp as well as little detail work. Prayers for a healthy community and a vision for the space is needed to complete this project and open it to the community by summer 2021.



First picture was taken March 2017 during demo of the dog kennels, the second picture is in the same spot taken January 2021



The sorting room floor has been painted and reorganized



We got a call today for a plea for winter coats, hats, gloves, scarfs and socks for men in Syracuse. Thank you Beautiful Mess Ministries for reaching out and allowing C&B 2.0 the opportunity to help out!



Q: How successful is C&B 2.0?

A: Thanks to you, we have created so many relationships with other non-profit organizations and ministries. We have the best volunteers ever! We also have the best, most dedicated customers (friends) who support us by shopping, donating, sharing what we do and who we are and find ways to be in mission with us. Our little store brought in over \$15,000 in 2020 (and we were closed for 2.5 months)! This exceeded all expectations and we know we will do even more in 2021.

Q: What is in store for C&B 2.0 in 2021?

A: More relationships will blossom; more donations will arrive and more sales will be made. The store will continue to experience mini facelifts in order to optimize our appearance, organization and efficiency. C&B 2.0 will be an integral cog in the Mission Central's Campus – and we will pilot and roll-out events and opportunities for the community to attend and be a part of.

What's Happening

January:

January 1st - New Year's Day

January 5th-9th - C&B 2.0 \$5 Bucket Sale all week long

January 17th - UMC Special Sunday, Human Relations Day

January 18th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20th - Presidential Inauguration Day

February 13th-20th - C&B 2.0 Spin the Wheel Sale

SPIN THE WHEEL SALE



SATURDAY, 2/13, 10AM-2PM

TUESDAY, 2/16, 4PM-7PM

WEDNESDAY, 2/17, 10AM-4PM

THURSDAY, 2/18, 10AM-4PM

SATURDAY, 2/20, 10AM-2PM

COME SPIN THE WHEEL OF SAVINGS TO SEE
WHAT DISCOUNT YOU WILL RECEIVE!

C&B 2.0

7778 BREWERTON RD. CICERO, NY 13039

SPECIAL SUNDAY

Human Relations Day

"Human Relations Day is January 17, 2021. Prepare to celebrate this important Special Sunday with us. This year when there was unrest in our country, funds from the Human Relations Day offering helped annual conferences support peaceful demonstrations, food, access to medication, and rebuilding efforts for communities impacted by negative acts.

Human Relations Day calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their full potential as human beings and in relationship with one another. This special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and works with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Thank you for your faithful giving to the Human Relations Day offering."

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 9:30 service. Practice is every Sunday morning at 9:00am in the sanctuary. Please contact Jake Melnyk at roadoutofhere@gmail.com for info.

MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle is on hiatus due to COVID-19.

JANUARY

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - JANUARY - "PERSEVERANCE"

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

- Isaiah 40:31

NEW YEAR
NEW BEGINNINGS
WISHESdreams
CELEBRATE
LOVE FRESH START
FAMILY
Resolutions

January - Happy New Year!

Here's to a new year with new beginnings! I hope 2021 brings happiness, peace and blessings to you all. I'm praying that with the distribution of the vaccine, this upcoming year will be filled with less stress, turmoil and heart-breaking loss. I have been busy with my new puppy and have high hopes for the year ahead. I feel very grateful for this past year even with all its unexpected events and problems. I have learned a lot about myself and have come out of 2020 with a positive outlook towards the future. I think we all learned a lot this year and I hope that when life slowly returns to normal, we find gratitude in the little things that we once overlooked.

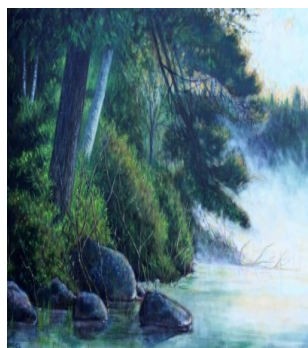


Mindful Moments: Winter in Nature Meditations

Are you looking for a fresh way to start off your New Year? There's no better way to clear the cobwebs than with a refreshing guided meditation experience! Join Becky Wilson on a virtual snowy walk through Baltimore Woods while enjoying restful meditations inspired by the beauty of winter and set intentions through mindful journaling exercises for the year ahead. Find a spot by a window to focus on nearby nature while watching this program.

A virtual program available for viewing available **January 8 - January 29**

Time: 12:00 PM **Donation:** \$10 **Location:** 4007 Bishop Rd, Marcellus, NY 13108 **Phone:** 315-673-1350 **Email:** info@baltimorewoods.org



Woodlands and Water: Art Gallery at Baltimore Woods

Baltimore Woods Nature Center's first exhibit of 2021, titled "Woodlands and Water", is a collection of oil paintings by Jamesville artist Diane L. Menzies. **Show dates are January 9th through February 27**, and the public is invited to view the exhibit in person at the nature center by pre-registering for a select Monday or Saturday through our **website baltimorewoods.org or by calling 315-673-1350**. A virtual exhibit can be accessed through the website after January 9th for those who prefer to enjoy a virtual exhibit from home. All of the artwork is for sale both in person and through the website with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Baltimore Woods.

BIBLE TRIVIA

A Few Bits of Potpourri

1. Which Gospel was, according to tradition, written first?
2. Which epistle was called "an epistle of straw" by Martin Luther, who disliked it because he thought it taught salvation by works?
3. What New Testament book had the most difficulty being accepted as Scripture by the early Christians?
4. What Egyptian bishop was the first person to list the 27 New Testament books that we now have?
5. What American president published an edition of the Gospels which left out all the supernatural elements?
6. Who printed the first Bible? What year did that occur?
7. What conqueror said, "The Bible is no mere book, but a Living Creature, with the power that conquers all that oppose it"?
8. What world-famous author said, "The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world"?
9. What was the name of the Jewish scholars who first inserted vowels into the text of the Hebrew Old Testament?
10. What is the oldest known manuscript of the New Testament, written in Greek, produced in Israel, and discovered by a Russian?

⇒ *Answers are located on the bottom of **Page 9***

Faith Journey UMC Podcast:

Intersections of Life & Faith
Featuring Pastor Daniel Bradley
&
Brian Doolittle

Three Ways to Listen:



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[www.facebook.com/
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www.fajourneyumc.libsyn.com/



Spotify

Search "fajourneyumc"
or Pastor Daniel Bradley

Unable to attend Sunday Service?

Good News!

Sunday Service Sermons are available to!

vimeo

To make the gospel more accessible, we have launched a Vimeo channel. Vimeo is a video sharing service on the internet, it will have all of our worship videos, sermons and music that appears each week on Facebook in one place and you will be able to access whenever you want. Please share this resource with family and friends. It is our desire to put the word of God into the hands of as many as possible.

The web address is:

<https://www.vimeo.com/channels/fjumc>



HD

JANUARY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

JANUARY

Scripture Writing Plan



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 - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Day 2 - Jeremiah 29:11

Day 3 - Isaiah 43:18-19

Day 4 - Ephesians 4:22-24

Day 5 - Lamentations 3:22-24

Day 6 - Isaiah 40:31

Day 7 - 1 Peter 1:3

Day 8 - Ezekiel 36:26

Day 9 - Philippians 3:13-14

Day 10 - Ecclesiastes 3:11

Day 11 - Matthew 7:7-8

Day 12 - Acts 3:19-20

Day 13 - Isaiah 65:17

Day 14 - Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 15 - Malachi 4:2

Day 16 - 2 Chronicles 7:14

Day 17 - Colossians 3:9-10

Day 18 - Psalm 73:25-26

Day 19 - Psalm 23:1-3

Day 20 - Romans 12:2

Day 21 - Romans 6:3-4

Day 22 - John 10:10

Day 23 - Isaiah 41:13

Day 24 - Philippians 4:6-7

Day 25 - Proverbs 16:9

Day 26 - Isaiah 60:1-2

Day 27 - Psalm 40:1-3

Day 28 - Galatians 6:14-16

Day 29 - Psalm 98:1-3

Day 30 - John 3:16-17

Day 31 - Revelation 21:4-5

What are Scripture Writing Plans?

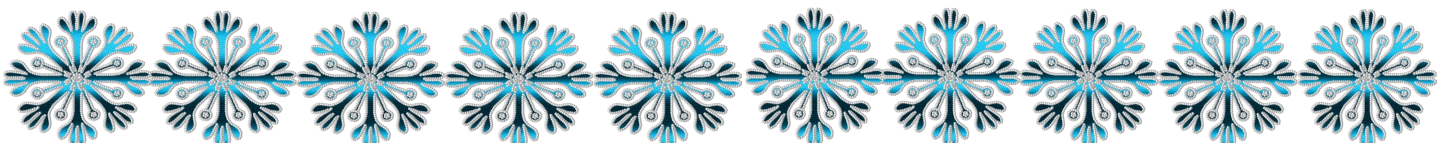
Scripture Writing plans are something you can do every day and it will help you in your journey with God. Get your bible out and write out the scripture for that day. It is a proven fact that when you write something down is resonates more fully than just reading it. So, write it out and speak those words into reality, this will also help with memorization of the word of God and your daily walk with Him.

This month's theme:
New Beginnings



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

- Psalm 119:18





BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.

Give blood.



North Syracuse Community Center – Sponsor Code – NSyracuse
700 South Bay Rd – N. Syracuse

Mon 1/4 – 11:30am – 4:30pm - Receive a \$5 Dunkin Card and a Red Cross Long-Sleeved T-Shirt!

Wed 1/13 – 1pm – 6pm

Tues 1/19 – 12pm – 5pm

Wed 1/27 – 11:30am – 4pm

St Augustine's Church – Sponsor Code - STM
7333 O'Brien Road– Baldwinsville

Wed 1/6 – 11am – 4pm - All presenting donors receive a \$5 Dunkin Gift Card!

Thurs 1/7– 1:30pm – 5:30pm - All presenting donors receive a \$5 Dunkin Gift Card!

Tues 1/12 – 2pm – 6pm

Wed 1/13 – 11:30am – 3:30pm

Wed 1/20 – 1pm – 5pm

Tues 1/26 – 11:30am – 4pm

Drivers Village – Center Court – Sponsor Code – DV
5885 E. Circle Drive – Cicero

Fri 1/8 – 12pm – 7pm – **IN MEMORY OF TAYLOR FLEMING** - Receive a \$5 Dunkin Card and a Red Cross Long-Sleeved T-Shirt! \$100 Amazon Gift Card Raffle – Apple Air Pods Raffle!

Sat 1/16 – 9am -2pm

Thurs 1/21 – 1:30pm – 6pm

Tues 1/26 – 1:30pm – 6pm

American Legion Post 787 – Sponsor Code – Cicero Legion
5575 Legionare Drive – Cicero

Thurs 1/28 – 1:30pm – 6:30pm

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and use the listed Sponsor Code

Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS



RecipeCorner

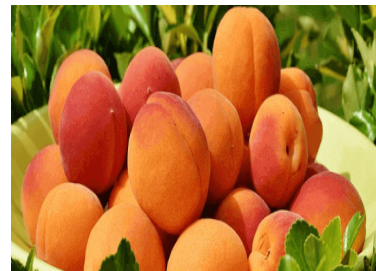
Do you have any recipes to share? I would love to feature your recipes in the monthly newsletter! Leave a recipe on my desk, in the offering plate or email the office at fjoffice@fjumc.org



Apricot Crisp Bars

Recipe by: Bare Feet in the Kitchen

<https://barefeetinthekitchen.com/apricot-crisp-bars-recipe/>



National Apricot Day - 9th, January

INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 4 cups chopped apricots
- ◆ 2/3 cup sugar
- ◆ 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ◆ 1 tablespoon arrowroot or cornstarch
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- ◆ 1 teaspoon almond extract
- ◆ 2 cups total of all purpose flour
- ◆ 1 1/2 cups old fashioned oats
- ◆ 1 cup light brown sugar
- ◆ 1 cup melted butter

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Place fruit into mixing bowl. Add the sugar, cinnamon, salt, and almond extract.
3. Stir to combine and then let rest on the counter while preparing the crust.
4. In a separate mixing bowl, stir together the flour, starch, oats and brown sugar.
5. Add the melted butter and stir to combine. Press half of this mixture into a well-buttered or parchment lined 9x13 pan. Pour the fruit over the bottom crust and then sprinkle the rest of the dry mixture on the top.
6. Bake for 30-35 minutes, until the crust turns golden brown.
7. Serve warm from the oven or let cool completely and slice into servings. Enjoy!

Prep Time: 10 mins.

Bake Time: 30 mins. + cooling

Makes: 16 servings

RECIPE





C&B 2.0 donated 30 boxes of clothing to the Red Bird Mission and collected shoeboxes at the church in December, we received an update from the Red Bird Mission and wanted to share it with you.

Greetings,

This year's trip to the Red Bird Mission was very successful. We took 2,025 shoeboxes filled with personal hygiene items, 25 boxes of diapers, over 75 new sheet sets, over 100 backpacks filled with school supplies, handmade scarves, and other miscellaneous items. We drove one 26-foot truck to Kentucky and intend to take another 26-foot truck with clothing and food sometimes in March of 2021.

This year we kept a record of the hours and miles put into this mission. Our drivers drove approximately 4,662 miles picking up donations throughout the Upper New York Conference and driving to Kentucky. The team spent over 400 hours on this mission.

As we look forward to next year's mission, we would like churches to consider donating shoeboxes, backpacks, new blankets and sheet sets, and diapers. The need for clothing is not as critical this time of the year as the warehouse at the mission is usually full of gently used clothes. **New** clothes will still be taken to the Community Outreach Center for distribution.

Once again, I would like to personally thank all of you for your support of this vital mission. It is such a good feeling to know how God works to provide for those in need.

Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy New Year.

Dave Alexander

WE'RE DOING
MORE WITH YOUR
SUPPORT
Thank you
..... FOR YOUR
DONATION

Pennellville United Methodist Church donated 3 large boxes of hand-knit gloves, hats and mittens to contribute to the Hat, Mitten and Sock tree donation we collect for the month of December and we have donated them to the Vera House and St. Joe's. We also collected an offering of \$450 for *In My Father's Kitchen* during the month of December.

Thank you so much for your support during the holiday season!



"The week between Christmas and New Year's 20 poinsettias were delivered from church by 10 fellow church members to shut-ins. I know those I delivered to were pleased to receive a poinsettia. Most wished I could have come in and visited. If you'd like to make a new friend and visit regularly for now by phone and later in person let the church office know and we'll help you pick out someone who would welcome your visits."

From Beth Schnipp

"Dear Friends, I want to thank you so much for remembering me at the holiday. That beautiful plant did so much to brighten up my apartment. It was so nice to be thought of. I don't get out much in winter and look forward to the nice weather again."

Thanks again for thinking of me."

Sincerely, Fran Haskins

Bible Trivia Answers: 1. Mark, 2. James, 3. Revelation, 4. Athanasius of Alexandria, occurred in A.D. 367, 5. Thomas Jefferson, 6. Johann Gutenberg in year 1456, 7. Napoleon, 8. Charles Dickens, 9. The Masoretes, 10. Codex Sinaiticus

JANUARY 2021

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 7PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	2 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
3	4	5	6 9:00 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctuary.	7 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building	8 7PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	9 9AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
10	11	12	13 9:00 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctuary.	14 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	15 7PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay	16 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
17 <i>Special Sunday:</i> Human Relations Day	18 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19	20 <i>Presidential Inauguration Day</i> 9:00 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctuary.	21 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	22 7PM - Gambler's Anonymous @ Clay Campus	23 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
24	25	26	27 9:00 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctuary.	28 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	29 7PM - Gambler's Anonymous	30 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
31	<p align="center"> <u>In-Person and Online Worship Service:</u> Join us in-person or watch us live every Sunday at 10 am on Facebook www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumccclaynorthsyracuse <u>Sermons also available on:</u> Faithjourneyumc.libsyn.com or https://www.vimeo.com/channels/fjumc </p>					



For the month of **JANUARY** we will be collecting **Diapers** for those in need.



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 mission, 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
Maryna Mazhukhova - Musician
Daniel Williams - Musician
Jake Melnyk - Musician
Sara Mertz - Office Manager
Sean Townsend - Custodian