



A Hungry God: Shattering the mirror (Part 3)

"Then God said, "Let us make<sup>47</sup> humankind<sup>48</sup> in our image, after our likeness,<sup>49</sup> so they may rule<sup>50</sup> over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth,<sup>51</sup> and over all the creatures that move<sup>52</sup> on the earth." <sup>1:27</sup> God created humankind<sup>53</sup> in his own image, in the image of God he created them,<sup>54</sup> male and female he created them.<sup>55</sup>" Genesis 1:26-27

A mirror is nothing more than glass that has been painted with silver reflective paint. Years ago, Mercury was added to the silver paint to enhance the reflection. Mirrors show us what we want to see and what we don't want to see. They are helpful and hurtful. The mirror has no feelings; it reflects what you look like with brutal honesty. There is no escaping the reality of the mirror.



The image in the mirror or what you see is transmitted to your brain as truth. The truth about what you look like and how your body appears. I am not suggesting that we stop using mirrors as they are helpful tools that remind us to brush our hair, teeth and occasionally shave (if you are a guy). I choose to shave only once a week because I find it to be an annoyance. Yet every day, I look in the mirror and see the new growth and wonder how people see me. Does my untamed "Goat-Tee" make me look distinguished or just an unkempt Gen-X preacher with a propensity to defy the everyday clean-shaven look? It's true even though I say I don't care; I do value how people view me. Unfortunately, I put too much stock in what people say and behave based on my appearance. You see, I have a love affair with a mirror. I gaze into it, and I repeat the words of the evil queen in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. "Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?" The response comes back, "Not you." My office administrator, Sara, reminded me that Snow White was utterly unaware of her beauty and what made her beautiful was how she loved the forest creatures and helped others. Natural beauty comes from the depths of our hearts. It is the outward expressions of grace that flow from God. You are a beautiful child of God.

Mirrors are gut-wrenching honest. Who we are and whose we are is not determined by our looks, body type, or how much we weigh? When we look into a mirror, we see a reflection? But that is not what God sees. God sees us as multidimensional faceted person bearing God's image. We are a reflection of the *Imago Dei*. We possess in ourselves the DNA of Almighty God and carry that image into the world. No two people are alike. We are all different and yet the same. We look different, act, and talk differently, but all of us are embodied with the Holy Spirit. We are the people of God bound together by the shed blood of Jesus. When you look at yourself and begin the negative self-talk, you play into the enemy's hand and begin to notice everything wrong with you instead of what is right with you.

Full-length mirrors are the worst. We critique our abs (if you are lucky enough to have them), stomachs, hips, thighs, legs, butt, chest, breasts (men too), and don't get me started about feet. We spend time looking at stretch marks and scars from surgeries, and we wonder, "How could anyone love me?" We shame ourselves into believing that this human body is all we will ever be, yet when it comes down to it, our bodies will go to the ground, and our spirit will rise to be with Christ.

Bishop Al Wesley Goodwin once said, "We are not human beings having a supernatural experience; we are supernatural beings having a human experience." Our human experience will be nothing compared to our eternal experience, and I am sorry to say you won't have the body of Jennifer Anniston or Matthew McConaughey in glory. Instead, you will have a mystical body that God has designed from the time of your conception. This earthly body will pass. So why do we worry about it so much?

We worry about our bodies because everyone wants to be beautiful. But unfortunately, society has set an unrealistic standard for beauty. We quest after beauty like a princess or a prince that is heir to the throne. We live in a "GQ" and "Victoria's Secret" world where flesh is praised and sexuality is lifted high. Unfortunately, this is a false reality, and we should stop looking to airbrushed models with perfect bodies to let us know our value. As a result, we fat-shame ourselves and those who aren't perfect in their bodies. We are so hyper-critical of ourselves and one another it is a wonder we ever get out of bed.

#### What is normal, and who defines it?

God created us in God's image and made us in the image of the triune God. We are not destined to be trapped in our earthly bodies forever. These bodies are temporary, and when we see God face to face, we will reflect God's image for all eternity. It is time to shatter the unrealistic expectations that we have allowed to be placed on us by the media, internet, and the barrage of supermodels and Hollywood elites. Don't let others dictate who you are or how you look. God thought enough of you that he sent Jesus into this world to die for your sins. You were bought with a price, and that is more than anyone in this world has offered to do for you.

It's time to shatter the mirror. Go ahead and take a hammer to it. Then look into it. You will see multiple versions of yourself. That is how God sees you. A multifaceted, multidimensional supernatural being who isn't predetermined by culture and society. You are a beloved child of God, a beauty to behold. What is inside will reflect on the outside if you stop, look, listen, and hear God call your name. "Beloved, you are my child, and I am your God, and you are beautiful." Don't be fooled by the image you see in the mirror. Shatter the mirror and take a look at what God sees in you. You are the *Imago Dei -the image of God*.

In Christ,

Rev. Daniel . 7 Gudlig

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** :

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



C&B 2.0 will be hosting a holiday party on Saturday, December 11th from 3 to 6 pm and holding a holiday giveback drawing for every customer throughout the month of December (see full details above). We will be closed for the holidays, December 21st - January 3rd then we will be reopening January 4th - 8th with a New Year Bucket Sale! We've had such a great, successful year developing relationships with individuals and other ministries, we are excited to see what else we can do in 2022! Thank you to all of our volunteers, customers and the countless donations that contributed in making 2021 a wonderful success for Cradle & Beyond 2.0

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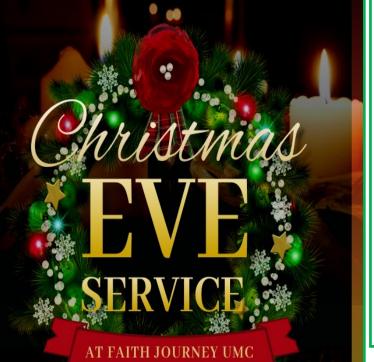
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# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Choose your Service: 6:00 p.m. or 8:00 p.m.

Join us with family and friends for Christmas Eve Worship Service at 6:00 p.m. or 8:00 p.m. at Faith Journey United Methodist Church

8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041

### **December:**

December 2nd - Charge Conference, 6:30pm @ FJUMC December 2nd - Dream Team Meeting, 7pm @ FJUMC December 5th - Maryna & Friends Christmas Concert, 10am @ FJUMC December 9th - Mary Circle Meeting, 12pm @ Diane Foraker's Home, Potluck - bring a dish to pass December 10th - Prayer Meeting, 7pm @ FJUMC December 10th & 11th - Gift Wrapping Service December 11th - C&B 2.0 Christmas Party, 3pm @ C&B 2.0 December 12th - Make It Happen Worship Service, 10am @ FJUMC December 12th - Charge Conference, 7pm @ FJUMC December 17th & 18th - Gift Wrapping Service December 22nd & 23rd - Gift Wrapping Service December 24th - Christmas Eve Worship Service, 6pm or 8pm December 24th - Christmas Eve December 25th - Christmas Day December 21st - Jan. 3rd - C&B 2.0 Closed for the Holidays December 30th - New Years' Eve January 1st - New Years Day

January 4th - 8th - New Years Bucket Sale @ C&B 2.0



Maryna & Friends Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 5th 10:00 a.m.

Join us for worship service on 12/5 at 10am for a special Christmas Concert brought to you by Maryna & Friends, featuring guest artists:

Luba Lesser, Martha Grener, and Alexandra & Mike Dubaniewicz

> Faith Journey UMC 8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041



#### 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 <u>roadoutofhere@gmail.com</u> for info.



Mary Circle is meeting on Thursday, December 9th at 12:00 pm at Diane Foraker's Home for the annual Christmas Potluck. (8050 Henry Clay Blvd. Liverpool, NY 13090)



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER - "THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT" "Jesus said, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." - John 14:26





### December - Merry Christmas!

This past month has been so busy and Thanksgiving was a nice little break in the week! I have finally started my Christmas shopping and have been busy everyday with something new. One of my oldest and dearest friends, Lisa, has a handmade candle business, so I've been helping her fulfill orders and make candles, it's been such a fun activity to do as friends. She is now selling her Gracefully Handcrafted Candles at Abbott's Farm in Baldwinsville, if your there anytime soon, make sure to check out her amazing candle creations! We have many activities and events happening this month, check out the newsletter, website or phone app to see what's going on at Faith Journey and Cradle & Beyond. It should be fun going to holiday parties again and spending time with friends and family. Have a safe and happy holiday!



# NOVEMBER 15, 2021 - JANUARY 14, 2022 ONONDAGA LAKE PARK, LIVERPOOL / 5PM - 10PM

## TICKET PRICING

VEHICLE CAMPLE CAMPLE CAMPLE CAMPLE CAMPLE CAMPLE TO BORLESS MONDAY & TUESDAY - \$6 WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY - \$10 FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY - \$20

> MINI-BUS - \$24 (Vehicle capacity 17-25)

NOTORCOACH - \$75 (VEHICLE CAPACITY 26+)



DISCOUNT TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLINE SALES ONLY / WHILE SUPPLIES LAST \$5 MONDAY - THURSDAY / \$15 FRIDAY - SUNDAY USE CODE "LOLSANTA" FOR DISCOUNT

ADMISSION IS ONLINE SALES ONLY Vehicle passes must be purchased in advance www.lightsonthelake.com Lights on the Lake is a two mile long drive-thru show featuring towering holiday displays, larger than life Land of Oz, a twinkling fantasy forest, colorful section arches, memorable animated scenes and a fairy tale magic grand finale! Visitors drive through the show while listening to the wonderful sounds of the season on Sunny 102.1

Date: November 15, 2021 - January 14, 2021 Time: 5 PM - 10 PM

Location: Onondaga Lake Park, 106 Lake Dr. Liverpool, NY 13088

#### Tickets: MON&TUES \$6, WED&THURS \$10,

FRI,SAT&SUN \$20 Tickets are limited and sold by the day, tickets must be purchased online at *lightson-thelake.com* 

#### **Early Bird Tickets**

Discount tickets available for a limited time Online sales only / while supplies last \$5 MONDAY - THURSDAY / \$15 FRIDAY - SATURDAY Use code "LOLSANTA" for discount

# **BIBLE TRIVIA**

Moses and Miracles

**1.** What did Moses mount on a pole as a way for healing the ailing Israelites?

2. What bird served as miracle food for the Israelites?

3. What did Moses do to bring forth water from the rock at Kadesh?

- 4. What animal came forth out of the Nile in droves?
- 5. What miraculous thing happened to Moses' hand?

**6.** What was the unique feature of the hailstorm that God sent upon the Egyptians?

7. What did Moses' staff turn into?

8. What everyday substance was changed into a plague of lice?

9. What caused the boils on the Egyptians?

10. What did the Nile waters turn into?

11. What plague was sent upon the Egyptians' cattle?

**12.** Who appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Jesus?

**13.** What did Moses cast into the bitter water at Marah to make it sweet?

**14.** What happened to Aaron's staff when placed in the Tent of Meeting?

**15.** What was done to stop the plague that killed 14,700 of the Israelites?

**16.** What voracious insect was a plague on the Egyptian flora?

**17.** What happened to the rebellious Korah and his men?

**18.** What happened to 250 men who offered incense?

19. For how long did the thick darkness hang over the Egyptians?20. What substance, called bread from heaven, fed the Israelites in the wilderness?

# Miracles of Paul and Peter

1. What dead man at Troas was raised up by Paul after falling out of a window?

2. Who did Peter heal of long-term palsy?

**3.** Where did Paul exorcise a spirit from a possessed girl, whose owners then became furious?

4. What woman did Peter raise from the dead?

5. Where did Paul heal a crippled man?

6. Who, with Peter, healed a crippled man at the Beautiful Gate?

7. What sorcerer was blinded at Paul's command?

8. What, placed on Paul's body, brought about healings and exorcisms?

**9.** On what island did Paul heal the governor's family and many other people?

**10.** What miraculous occurrence delivered Paul and Silas from prison in Philippi?

**11.** What happened when Peter and John placed their hands on the believers at Samaria?

12. What part of Peter was supposed to produce healings?

**13.** What happened when Paul placed his hands on the believers at Ephesus?

14. What dangerous creature did not affect Paul when it bit him?15. How many times was Peter delivered from prison by an angel?

 $\Rightarrow$  Answers are located on the bottom of Page 10



We are excited to announce Faith Journey UMC has successfully launched an APP and it's available to download now!

The application features information like monthly newsletters, food pantry, worship resources, calendar of events, online giving, and a section to submit prayer requests.

The APP is still a work in progress and I would love any ideas for new pages or sections, let me know if you have any suggestions of things you would like to see featured!

There are two ways to get the app, 1. Scan the QR code with your smart phone or 2. submit your email address to receive a download link.

The link and QR code to download the Faith Journey UMC Application are below:

Website Link: <u>https://</u> <u>cms.instantapps.com/promo/</u> <u>u002232</u>



# DECEMBER SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



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 - Isaiah 9:6-7 Day 2 - Isaiah 11:1-4 Day 3 - Isaiah 53:3-7 Day 4 - Micah 5:2-5 Day 5 - Isaiah 7:14-15 Day 6 - Matthew 1:18-19 Day 7 - Matthew 1:20-21 Day 8 - Matthew 1:22-23 Day 9 - Matthew 1:24-25 Day 10 - Matthew 2:1-2 Day 11 - Matthew 2:3-5 Day 12 - Matthew 2:6-7 Day 13 - Matthew 2:8-10 Day 14 - Matthew 2:11-12 Day 15 - Luke 1:26-28 Day 16 - Luke 1:29-31

Day 17 - Luke 1:32-34 Day 18 - Luke 1:35-38 Day 19 - Luke 1:39-41 Day 20 - Luke 1:42-45 Day 21 - Luke 1:46-48 Day 22 - Luke 1:49-51 Day 23 - Luke 1:52-54 Day 24 - Luke 1:55-56 Day 25 - Luke 2:1-3 Day 26 - Luke 2:1-3 Day 27 - Luke 2:7-9 Day 28 - Luke 2:10-12 Day 29 - Luke 2:13-15 Day 30 - Luke 2:19-20

## <u>What are Scripture</u> <u>Writing Plans?</u>

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.



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# Thanksgiving Bag Challenge

We collected 58 Thanksgiving Bags and over \$600 in meat donations. Each food pantry received around 20 Thanksgiving bags and over \$200 in meat donations! In addition to the bags of groceries, the Mary circle donated \$50 for each pantry as well as pot holders that were placed in bags and several people donated extra money on Sundays. Thank you all so much for making a difference!

A special thank you to Marcia and Dave Zogg for delivering Thanksgiving bags to Phoenix Food Pantry, Terry and Cathy Bryant to Brown Memorial UMC and Mary Ellen and Richard Pasternak to North Syracuse Christian Church's Food Pantry.

We thank you so much for all the support, donations and effort put into our annual Thanksgiving Bag Challenge and our mission to bring Thanksgiving to local families in need!





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



# <u>White Chocolate</u> Cranberry Cookies

https://twopeasandtheirpod.com/white-chocolate-cranberry-cookies/

Recipe by: Two Peas & Their Pod, Maria Lichty



# INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- Flaky sea salt, optional for sprinkling on cookies

# DIRECTIONS

White Chocolate Cranberry Cookies are a festive, tasty treat perfect for any holiday table or cookie exchange, the tart cranberries and sweet white chocolate create the perfect cookie!

**1.** Preheat your oven to 350 degrees F.

**2.** Line a large baking sheet with a Silpat baking mat or parchment paper and set aside.

**3.** In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and sea salt. Set aside.

**4.** In the bowl of a stand mixer or with a hand mixer, cream the butter and sugars together until creamy and smooth, stopping to scrape down the sides of the bowl as necessary. This will take 1 to 2 minutes.

**5.** Add the eggs and vanilla extract and beat until combined.

6. With the mixer off, add all of the dry ingredients. Turn the mixer on and mix until just combined, don't over-mix. Stir in the white chocolate chips and dried cranberries.
7. Form the cookie dough into balls, about 2 tablespoons

of dough per cookie. Place on prepared baking sheet, about 2 inches apart.

**8.** Bake cookies for 10 to 12 minutes or until the edges are slightly golden brown. Remove from oven and sprinkle the cookies with flaky sea salt. Let the cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, than transfer to a wire cooling rack and cool completely.

Prep Time: 15 mins. Cook Time: 10 mins. Total Time: 25 mins. Makes: 30 cookies

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Prices starting from \$1 to \$10/package

# Gift Wrapping Service

Love the shopping, but hate the wrapping? Let us do all your holiday wrapping for you! Just drive right up to our front door and we'll take it from there!

> December 10, Noon - 9 p.m. December 11, Noon - 6 p.m. December 17, Noon - 9 p.m. December 18, Noon - 6 p.m. December 22, Noon - 9 p.m. December 23, Noon - 9 p.m.

Call (315) 652-9186 or (315) 263-1014 with any questions. Faith Journey UMC 8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041

# MARY CIRCLE CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

### Thursday, December 9th | 12:00 PM

POTLUCK STYLE-PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

> Hosted at Diane Foraker's House 8050 Henry Clay Blvd. Liverpool, NY 13090



Faith Journey UMC has signed up to do the meal at Brown Memorial UMC on Sunday, January 9th at 2:00 p.m. We are looking for a few volunteers to help serve the meal at Brown UMC on Sunday, January 6th.

*If you are interested in helping out, please reach out to Linda Raulli at (315) 263-1014 to volunteer and sign-up.* 

**Bible Trivia Answers**: **1.** A brass serpent, **2.** Quail, **3.** He struck it twice, **4.** Frogs, **5.** It became leprous, then became normal again, **6.** It was accompanied by fire that ran along the ground, **7.** A serpent, **8.** Dust, **9.** Ashes that were turned into dust, **10.** Blood, **11.** Murrain, **12.** Elijah, **13.** A tree, **14.** It sprouted and blossomed and bore almonds, **15.** An offering of incense was made, **16.** Locusts, **17.** They were swallowed up by the earth, **18.** They were consumed by fire from the Lord, **19.** Three days, **20.** Manna / **1.** Eutychus, **2.** Aeneas, **3.** Philippi, **4.** Dorcas, **5.** Lystra, **6.** John, **7.** Elymas, **8.** Aprons and handkerchiefs, **9.** Malta, **10.** An earthquake, **11.** They received the Holy Spirit, **12.** His shadow, **13.** They spoke in tongues and proclaimed the gospel, **14.** A viper, **15.** Twice

MARY CIRCLE

# DECEMBER 2021

9	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
				Charge Confer- ence, 6:30pm		
			9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu-	Dream Team Meeting, 7pm		9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
*Communion Maryna & Friends				Mary Circle, 12pm @ Diane Foraker's	Prayer Meeting, 7pm @ FJUMC	Holiday Party, 3pm -6pm @ C&B 2.0
Christmas Con- cert, 10am			9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu- ary.	<b>house</b> 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build-	Gift Wrapping Service, 12pm-9pm	Gift Wrapping Service, 12pm-6pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Make It Happen Worship Service, 10am			Blue Christmas Service, 11am		Gift Wrapping Service, 12pm-9pm	Gift Wrapping Service, 12pm-6pm
Charge Confer- ence, 7pm			9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu-	9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building		9AM - 12PM - Workday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Gift Wrapping Service, 12pm-9pm	Gift Wrapping Service, 12pm- 9pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service, 6pm and 8pm @	<b>Christmas Day</b> 9AM - 12PM - Workday
			9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy	9AM - 12PM - Workday	FJUMC	@ New Building
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
					New Years Eve	New Years Day
In-Person and Online Worship Service:						
Join us in-person or watch us live every Sunday at 10 am on Facebook www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumcclaynorthsyracuse						
<u>Sermons also available on:</u> Faithjourneyumc.libsyn.com or https://www.vimeo.com/channels/fjumc						Christmas



For the month of **DECEMBER**, we will be collecting items for our annual Hat, Mitten & Sock Tree for those less fortunate to make winter a little warmer and welcoming. Items include *hats*, *mittens*, *gloves*, *and socks*. Thank you for your support!

Share the



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.



We serve God through mission, encourage everyone on their spiritual journey and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.



We create opportunities for all to share their gifts and talents and demonstrate openness, acceptance and hospitality.



#### 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