



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



# The Stepping Stone

## April 2022

It's Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, and I am sitting in my home office in front of a laptop writing this article. I hope that having it complete two weeks before Sara asks for it will make her life a little easier.

When I was in kindergarten, we tricked one of my classmates into putting a penny into an electric outlet. You guessed it, he got shocked and all the lights in the classroom went out. I have repented of this many times and, still, I wish I could apologize to John.

When a process is short-circuited, it means that it came off the rails somewhere between the beginning and the end. When we short-circuit the work of God by not paying attention to the plan laid out in the scriptures, we enter into dark territory. Like a train going through a tunnel, it's pitch black with only the light on the front of the engine to guide its journey.

Sometimes I feel like I am not a passenger on the train so much as the fool looking into the tunnel standing on the tracks pointing and saying, "Train!" Not an intelligent thing to do. We don't have to "see" the light to know the train is coming. We can listen and hear the click of the wheels on the track and hear the blast of the whistle.

These past weeks have been a time of preparation for the unknown. March 25<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner, and I will admit that I am anxious about my bariatric surgery. In practice, I have already lost 45lbs since April of 2021. Yet, I know there is a long way to go. My end goal is to make weight to go skydiving this summer over the Grand Tetons National Park. And you thought I was crazy a while ago. I promise if I get up the courage to skydive, I will show the footage in church on a Sunday morning. Mary shared that she will be on the ground with our life insurance agent on speed dial. I want to kiss the face of God, not smack the ground.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

## short cir·cuit

/SHôrt 'særkət/

verb

past tense: **short-circuited**; past participle: **short-circuited**

(with reference to an electrical device) malfunction or fail, or cause to do this, as a result of a short circuit across it.

"the birds caused the electricity supply to short-circuit"

shorten (a process or activity) by using a more direct (but often improper) method.

verb: **short circuit**; 3rd person present: **short circuits**; gerund or present participle: **short circuit-**

My anxiety about this surgery has been through the roof. What if this? What if that? What will I look like? Am I going to have any clothes that fit? All of this has the potential to short-circuit my plan for surgery. What I need to have as opposed to fear-filled anxiety is the optimal anxiety to propel me forward into a life-changing reality that will bless my family and me.

God doesn't want us to live in anxiety or fear. God wants us to trust in the plans set forth and when the time comes to "pull the shoot" and make a safe accident-free landing. I want to challenge you to make a life plan related to God and follow it. Put it into practice each day, hour, and week. Discipleship is not about perfection. It's about following the plan of God in whichever direction it leads.

The first step is simply to know that God loves you so much that he gave his only Son to die for you that you might be saved and live an entire life of freedom and grace. Practice that step, over and over, and I promise your life will begin to fall into place. The beginning of wisdom starts when we realize that only we have the power to short-circuit our relationship with God. Take heart though God is on the move, and he will continually call you back to his bosom. You are a beloved child of the KING of KINGS! Never forget who you came from and to whom you belong.

Nine days to go, two doctors' appointments, and a covid test. After that, I will depart for the hospital at 4:45 am, and by noon, I will have a new lease on life for the next 50 years.

Thank you for all of your kind words, thoughts, and prayers. It is good to know that my church family has my back.

God Bless, and I promise Rev. Kinney will have updates to share when he preaches for me on March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Go with God and be blessed!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Daniel J. Bradley".

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

# What's Happening

## Holy Week Schedule



### **Palm Sunday**

Sunday, April 10th - 10:00 a.m.

### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 14th - 7:00 p.m.

### **Good Friday**

Friday, April 15th - 7:00 p.m.

### **Easter**

Sunday, April 17th

Sunrise Service: 6:30 a.m.

Traditional Service: 10:00 a.m.

*Join us as we gather to remember Jesus' last week, as he journeyed through Jerusalem to fulfill Old Testament prophecies, attended the Last supper with his disciples, sacrificed himself for our salvation through crucifixion and his ultimate resurrection and victory over sin.*

Faith Journey UMC  
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041

## **April:**

**April 6th** - Lenten Book Study, 10am @ FJUMC

**April 9th** - Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am-sold out @FJUMC

**April 10th** - Palm Sunday, 10am @FJUMC

**April 13th** - Lenten Book Study, 10am @ FJUMC

**April 14th** - Maundy Thursday, 7pm @FJUMC

**April 15th** - Good Friday, 8pm @FJUMC

**April 17th** - Easter, 6:30am & 10am @FJUMC

**April 22nd** - Earth Day

**April 22nd** - Memorial Meeting, 10am @ FJUMC

**April 29th** - Arbor Day

**April 30th** - Grandma's Old-Fashioned Roast Beef Dinner Drive-Thru, 4pm-sold out @ FJUMC

**May 1st** - Native American Ministries Sunday



## **Native American Ministries Sunday**

Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities.

An offering is taken on May 1, 2022 and is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences, and Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology.

Half of the donations collected remain within the Annual Conference to provide hope to children and youth, hope for a brighter future in impoverished communities and a voice to those who have felt voiceless for years.

When you give generously on Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love.

## **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

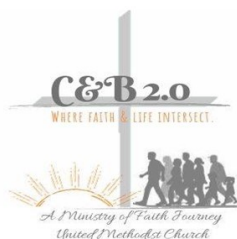
Jake Melnyk at [roadoutofhere@gmail.com](mailto:roadoutofhere@gmail.com) for info.

# MARY CIRCLE

*A huge thank you to Mary Circle for donating \$40 in hygiene products for the March Food Pantry.*

Mary Circle is planning on meeting in May, stay tuned for more details to come!





# 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 any day/time the store is  
open!

WE'RE DOING  
MORE WITH YOUR  
SUPPORT

*Thank you*  
..... FOR YOUR .....  
DONATION

Thanks to all of you who choose to donate at C&B.. because of you we were able to donate some warm coats and jeans to this amazing organization, *We Rise Above the Streets*, who helps those in the south side of Syracuse to be warm, fed and clothed! John Tumino and his staff at *In My Father's Kitchen* were also so happy and appreciative to get donations of jeans and coats from C&B. Thank you all who choose to donate C&B, which helps us continue outreach and support for local missions. For the month of April, C&B and FJUMC are partnering together to support Erin's Angels nonprofit food pantry by collecting items for the Backpack program at Phoenix Central School District.






# FOOD DRIVE

Hand-in-hand to  
Help Others



*"Erin's Angels is a nonprofit food pantry that ensures children who rely on subsidized lunches continue to receive food vital to their growth and development. It was an imagined dream after the unfortunate death of Erin Maxwell in 2008. Erin's Angels vows that no other child in the Phoenix School District will go hungry. Through the Backpack program at Phoenix Central School District, food given in Erin Maxwell's name and is placed in students' backpacks by their teachers. There is no shame or stigma."*

We are collecting donations of single boxes of cereal, granola bars and cereal bars for Erin's Angels.

Drop-off: April 1 - 30, 2022

Drop off at Faith Journey UMC, Mon-Fri (8am-12pm) 8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041 or at Cradle & Beyond 2.0 during store hours, 7778 Brewerton Rd. Cicero, NY 13039

For More Information: (315) 652-9186  
[www.fjumc.org](http://www.fjumc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/cradleandbeyond](http://www.facebook.com/cradleandbeyond)  
[www.erinsangels.com](http://www.erinsangels.com)

Made with PosterMyWall.com



### SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - APRIL- "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*



### April - Happy Easter!

Springtime is upon us and Holy Week is happening soon! I have been pre-occupied with getting everything together for the busy month of April! In addition to Holy Week, we have our annual Chicken BBQ's starting April 9th and Roast Beef Dinner happening April 30th, it's going to be a month full of good food and fun times!

It's extremely heartbreaking and scary to see what's been going on in Ukraine and if you feel helpless like me and want to find ways to help out, I listed the United Methodist resource below. Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and let's hope this conflict is resolved without even more loss of life, fear and damage. The last two years has been extremely difficult for the world, but we have rallied together and will continue to conquer fear and hate with love and peace.



PRAY FOR

UKRAINE

### **Wondering How You Can Help the People of Ukraine?**

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery**. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>

- By toll free telephone: 888-252-6174

- By check with "Advance #982450-Ukraine" written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

**One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.**

The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the Church's leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.



# **BIBLE TRIVIA**

## **Going to Extremes**

1. Who was the youngest king mentioned in the Bible?
2. What was the largest army assembled?
3. What king of Judah had the longest reign?
4. What king of Israel had the shortest reign?
5. What is the shortest prayer in the Bible?
6. What are the two shortest verses in the Bible?
7. What is the longest verse in the Bible?
8. What is the longest prayer in the Bible?
9. What is the biggest animal mentioned in the Bible?
10. What is the smallest animal mentioned in the Bible?
11. What is the longest book in the Bible?
12. What is the longest book in the New Testament?
13. What word, the name of Isaiah's son, is the longest word in the Bible?
14. What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

## **Hairsbreadth Escapes**

1. Paul, newly converted to Christianity, enraged the Jewish leaders in a certain city, so they decided to murder him. His friends let him down in a basket through the city wall, what city was it?
2. The judge Ehud stabbed the fat Moabite king Eglon while they were alone together. What simple maneuver did Ehud use to evade the king's guards?
3. Nebuchadnezzar breached the walls of Jerusalem, but the king and many others escaped. How?
4. The king of Sodom escaped his attackers by hiding where?
5. In Mark's Gospel, a young man who was following Jesus on the night of his betrayal just barely escaped from being apprehended himself. What was the sole garment the young man was wearing, and how did he escape?
6. Where did Joseph take Mary and the infant Jesus in order to escape the wrath of King Herod?
7. After Moses, still living in the royal household of Egypt, killed an Egyptian, where did he take refuge?
8. When a violent storm caused the death of all of Job's children, how many people in the household escaped the tragedy?
9. Jesus was threatened with stoning by people gathering in Jerusalem for the Feast of Dedication. How did he escape?
10. Of the many times Saul tried to kill David, one of the closest calls was when he threw a spear at David. What did David do?
11. How did Michal, David's wife, fool the messengers who came to fetch the runaway David?
12. Running from Saul, David took refuge in Gath, where the king was worried about having a popular folk hero in town. How did David keep himself from being a victim of the king's anger?
13. When Absalom was trying to usurp the crown from his father, David, a woman helped David by hiding two of his messengers from Absalom's men. How did she hide them?

⇒ *Answers are located on the bottom of Page 10*

# Thank You



**From the family of Bob Smith**

**We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the love, compassion and support you all have shown our family during this difficult time. Your kind words of sympathy, the beautiful cards, your presence at the service and for all the cookies and muffins baked for after the service. Thank you all!**

**With appreciation,**

**Wilma, Cindi, Bill, Chelsea  
and Jeff**



# APRIL SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

## April

### 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 - John 11:20-27

Day 2 - John 6:38-40

Day 3 - Ephesians 4:20-24

Day 4 - John 5:24-27

Day 5 - John 5:28-30

Day 6 - Romans 6:4-6

Day 7 - Romans 6:7-11

Day 8 - Romans 6:12-14

Day 9 - John 14:1-4

Day 10 - John 14:5-7

Day 11 - 1 Timothy 6:11-14

Day 12 - 1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Day 13 - Revelation 21:1-4

Day 14 - Isaiah 53:3-5

Day 15 - Matthew 28:1-4

Day 16 - Matthew 28:5-8

Day 17 - Galatians 2:19-21

Day 18 - Colossians 2:13-15

Day 19 - 1 Peter 3:18-22

Day 20 - Romans 6:20-23

Day 21 - Revelation 21:5-8

Day 22 - Colossians 3:1-4

Day 23 - Colossians 3:5-8

Day 24 - Colossians 3:9-11

Day 25 - Isaiah 60:1-3

Day 26 - Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Day 27 - Hebrews 13:20-21

Day 28 - 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Day 29 - Galatians 3:26-29

Day 30 - Hebrews 10:19-23

### 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 bi-

ble 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.

**THEME:**

*New Life*





# Grandma's Old-Fashioned **ROAST BEEF DINNER** DRIVE-THRU

*Take-out, drive-thru only, no pre-orders.*

Saturday, April 30, 2022  
4:00 p.m. - until sold out!



Faith Journey United Methodist Church  
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041  
Phone: (315) 652-9186  
Email: [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumc](https://www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumc)  
claynorthsyracuse

## **ADULT DINNER**

**\$14.00**

Adult dinner includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, roll & butter and homemade pie or cake.

## **CHILDRENS DINNER**

**\$7.00**

Children's dinner includes a half-portion of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, roll & butter and homemade pie or cake.







# 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](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)



## Butterscotch Brownies

<https://ppandorasbox.blogspot.com/2019/03/butterscotch-brownies.html>

*Recipe found in Baldwinsville Messenger Eagle News  
and was submitted by Mary Ellen Pasternak  
Recipe by: Patti Pultorak @ Pandoras Box*



### INGREDIENTS

- ◆ 6 oz Nestle's Butterscotch morsels
- ◆ 1/4 cup butter
- ◆ 1 cup light brown sugar
- ◆ 2 eggs
- ◆ 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- ◆ 1 cup flour
- ◆ 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ◆ 3/4 teaspoon salt
- ◆ 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

### DIRECTIONS



**Get to know Patti:** "Hi...I'm Patti! Welcome to Pandora's Box. I live in central NY and I am a retired family and consumer science teacher. I enjoy all types of crafting, decorating and cooking. I hope you enjoy the Butterscotch brownies, they are such a great treat and so easy to make, and if you cut them in small pieces, you can have more than one!!"

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F and grease 13" x 9" baking pan.
2. In a medium bowl, melt butterscotch morsels and butter in microwave.
3. Stir in brown sugar and cool for 5 minutes.
4. Blend in 2 eggs and vanilla.
5. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt, stir in walnuts.
6. Pour into pan and bake for 25 minutes, let cool.
7. Cut into squares and dust with powdered sugar (optional).



# RECIPE



# Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru



Saturday, April 9th  
11:00 a.m. - until sold out!



**\$6.50** . . . Chicken Only (includes 1/2 chicken)

**\$9.00** . . . Chicken Dinner (includes 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans and a roll)

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



March 14, 2022

Dear Friends,

*Thank you for making  
a difference!*

On behalf of the Seton Food Pantry families, I would like to extend a sincere thank you for the detergents and paper products you donated to our pantry. We can't thank you enough for adding us to your list of recipients of your "special collections."

We feel fortunate to be housed in such a generous and caring community. Thank you for assisting us to make the lives of those less fortunate a bit easier.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Guild (Seton Food Pantry Coordinator)

**Bible Trivia Answers:** 1. Joash (or Jehoash) who began his reign at the age of seven, 2. One million men brought by Zerah the Ethiopian against Asa of Judah, 3. Manasseh, who ruled for 55 years, 4. Zimri, who ruled for seven days after usurping the throne, 5. "Lord, save me" uttered by Peter while sinking, 6. "Jesus wept" and "Eber, Peleg, Reu", 7. Esther 8:9 - 90 words in the King James Version, 8. Probably Nehemiah, 9. The whale, 10. The gnat, 11. Psalms, 12. Luke, 13. Maher-shalal-hash-baz, 14. Psalm 119, with 176 verses, 1. Damascus, 2. He locked the door to the king's chamber and escaped through an upstairs porch, 3. There was a secret gate next to the king's garden, 4. In slime pits, 5. The garment was a linen cloth, when the men grabbed him by the cloth, he fled away naked, 6. To Egypt, 7. In Midian, 8. One, 9. We don't know- the Gospel account gives no explanation, 10. He merely sidestepped the spear so it went into a wall, 11. She placed an idol (presumably human-sized) in David's bed and told the messengers he was sick, 12. He pretended to be crazy, 13. She hid them in a well, spread a covering over the well, and spread grain over the covering to hide it.



# APRIL 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2  9AM - 12PM - Workday
3  *Communion  <b>Alan Kinney Preaches</b>	4	5	6  <b>Lenten Book Study, 10am @ FJUMC</b>  9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu-	7  9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building	8	9  <b>Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am-sold out @ FJUMC</b>
10  <b>Palm Sunday</b>	11	12	13  <b>Lenten Book Study, 10am @ FJUMC</b>  9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu-ary.	14  <b>Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm</b>  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	15  <b>Good Friday Service, 8pm</b>	16  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
17  <b>Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 am Traditional Service, 10am</b>	18	19	20  9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu-ary.	21  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	22  <b>Earth Day Memorial Meeting, 10am @FJUMC</b>	23  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
24	25	26	27  9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in sanctu-ary	28  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	29  <b>Arbor Day</b>	30  <b>Grandma's Roast Beef Dinner Drive-Thru, 4pm-sold out @ FJUMC</b>
1  <b>Native American Ministries Sunday</b>		<b><u>In-Person and Online Worship Service:</u></b> Join us in-person or watch us live every Sunday at 10 am on Facebook <a href="http://www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumccclaynorthsyracuse">www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumccclaynorthsyracuse</a> <b><u>Sermons also available on:</u></b> Faithjourneyumc.libsyn.com or <a href="https://www.vimeo.com/channels/fjumc">https://www.vimeo.com/channels/fjumc</a>				





For the month of **APRIL**, we will be collecting *snack size cereal boxes, granola bars and cereal bars* for **Erin's Angels Food Pantry**.  
*Thank you for your support!*



## 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](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)

**Website:** [www.fjumc.org](http://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