



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



# **The Stepping Stone**

## **December 2022**



**I**n the 1980's AT&T advertised with the slogan, "Reach out and touch somebody." They were selling long-distance telephone calling features on the new touch tone networks. This was high-tech stuff, from the old rotary phones to a touchpad. I can remember my grandmother getting a push-button telephone. You might have thought that someone had just re-invented the wheel.

Fast-forward to 2022, and our smartphones are faster and more powerful than the computers we use, making us more detached from the world around us. Yet, it's essential to be present in the moments we have with our loved ones because they need us more now than ever before.

Christmas is when God reaches out to us through the gift of Jesus. It is not us that reaches out to God so much as God that reaches out to us first. Consider for a moment the times in your life when your parents or grandparents reached out to you at a time when you couldn't reach out to them because of life's circumstances. They gave their all to be in your life even if you didn't appreciate it at that moment. Family is so important that we ought never to take them for granted.

This past All Saint's Sunday, we remembered thirty-six individuals that had passed on to glory. Each one of them had a story and legacy that they left behind. They poured their life into their families and made a difference. You are a part of that legacy of faith.

My earliest memories are of my grandmother on Christmas morning. She would come over to my house with gifts in her arms. The sweet smell of her Emeraud perfume would fill the air. Her parka, cold from the winter chill, would feel warm as she embraced me. These are the memories that I hold onto, even in my adult years. Christmas is a time to draw near to family. We need the love of our family to keep us centered in God's love. Family is a tangible expression of God's love for me and you.

This Christmas, focus on the time you have with family and friends. Then, focus on those moments you have to share love and fellowship. Reach out and touch someone with God's grace and love. This love you share will be more critical than any package you give.

On Christmas Eve, we will be offering two worship services. At 10:00 am and 6:00 pm, we will celebrate Jesus' birth and share in Holy Communion. I encourage you to bring your family and friends for a time of grace and love. We will also be having worship on Christmas day at 10:00 am.

I hope and pray that this time will be a time of blessing and grace as you celebrate the birth of Jesus. Remember, God reaches out to us in dire circumstances and loves us through the baby Jesus. This time is your moment to reach back and embrace the God who gave life and life abundantly.

God be with you in this season of giving, and let your faith be evident as you bless one another.

In Christ,

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

# What's Happening

## December:

**December 4th** - Maryna & Friends Christmas Concert, 10am

**December 10th** - Holiday Party, 3-6pm @ *FJUMC*

**December 11th** - Buffalo Bills Football Sunday, 1pm @ *C&B 2.0*

**December 17th, 20th, 21st & 22nd** - Sale at *C&B 2.0*

**December 24th** - Christmas Eve

**December 24th** - Christmas Eve Worship Services, 10am & 6pm @ *FJUMC*

**December 25th** - Christmas Day

**December 25th** - Christmas Day Worship Service, 10am @ *FJUMC*

**12/23 - 1/3/2023** - *C&B 2.0* closed for the holidays

**Weekly Craft Sale** - Saturdays at *C&B 2.0* from 10am-2pm

Celebrate with us

## HOLIDAY PARTY

**Saturday, December 10, 2022**

**3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

We welcome you to join us for a holiday celebration on Saturday, 12/10 from 3pm to 6pm at Faith Journey United Methodist Church (8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041).

You are welcome to bring a dessert to pass; fun and games will be provided! Children are welcome as Linda Rauli will have a children's activity area set up!

Please RSVP to [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org) or call (315) 652-9186 by 12/4, so we can get an approximate headcount for catering.

Faith Journey UMC  
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041

(315) 652-9186  
[fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)

## Christmas Eve Worship Service

Join us at 10 a.m. or 6 p.m. on 12/24 to celebrate Jesus' birth and share in Holy Communion. We encourage you to bring your loved ones for a time of grace, love and joy.

Saturday, 12/24 at 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, 12/24 at 6:00 p.m.

## Christmas Day Worship Service

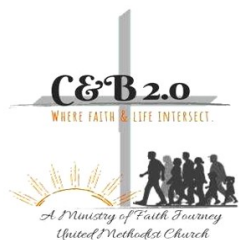
Sunday, 12/25 at 10:00 a.m.

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

## MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle is not going to be meeting for the winter months, stay tuned for future updates on Mary Circle Meetings





# Cradle & Beyond 2.0

## 7778 Brewerton Road

### Location:

7778 Brewerton Rd.  
Syracuse, NY 13212  
(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

### Contact Information:

Phone: (315) 980-8004  
Email:  
Cradleandbeyond2@gmail.com

As we are reaching the peak of the busiest time of the year, we hope that you find time to enjoy some time with family and friends and enjoy all the Holiday's bring.



We have such fun things happening at C&B this month. We will be hosting a weekly craft sale on Saturdays 10-2 – we will have a few of the same crafters each week and some new ones as well, so please stop by and say hi and maybe get some fabulous gifts to share with others. We are also doing weekly drawings for the "Holiday Meal in a Bag" until Christmas!

In addition to this, we will be having complimentary gift -wrapping Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in December. Although not expected, monetary donations are graciously accepted. Linda Raulli is our 'in-house' wrapper and as it gets busy, she will welcome help as needed. Gift-wrapping services are open to our customers and the community so please share that we are providing this service.

### WHEN IS THE NEXT SALE?

Our last sale went so well. We are already planning for our next sale which will be 12/17, 12/20, 12/21 and 12/22. C&B will be closed from 12/23 – 1/3/2023. When you return in January, the store will be shined up and merchandise will be turned over for a great start of the new year.

Thank you for all you have done to help C&B be a success, we can't wait to share all that you have helped us to do in 2022.



## GIFT WRAPPING SERVICES

*at Cradle & Beyond*

**STARTING ON NOVEMBER 25TH UNTIL DECEMBER 23RD**

**WEDNESDAY: 10AM - 4PM**

**THURSDAY: 10AM - 4PM**

**SATURDAY: 10AM - 2PM**

We already have assorted wrapping paper, boxes, bows and tags to complete your gifts! Your monetary donations are greatly appreciated!



**CRADLE & BEYOND 2.0**  
**7778 BREWERTON RD.**  
**SYRACUSE, NY 13212**



## HOLIDAY PARTY!

**Saturday, December 10, 2022**  
**3:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

We also hope that you are able to attend our annual Christmas party. It is on Saturday 12/10/22 from 3 – 6 pm. In order to share the holidays with all our volunteers as well as with members of Faith Journey UMC, we have decided to celebrate in the fellowship hall at FJUMC (8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041).

C & B will provide the meal and drinks, all you need to do is show up, wear an ugly / holiday sweater and if you are a baker, please share your talents and bring dessert to share. We have fun games planned so you won't want to miss out! We ask (to ensure we have enough to eat) that you RSVP to Beth or FJUMC church office (315-652-9186) by Monday 12/5.



### SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - DECEMBER - "RESURRECTION HOPE"

*"[The Lord] has sent me... to give ... oil of joy in place of mourning, a mantle of praise in place of discouragement." - Isaiah 61:1,3*



### DECEMBER

Happy Holidays! This year has flown by so fast! It seems like it was just Summer and I can't believe I'm now wrapping Christmas presents! I hope you are able to spend quality time with family and friends this holiday season. My oldest brother is coming to visit from North Carolina and I am so excited to see him, my sister-in-law and the 3 kids! They haven't been to New York since July of 2020 and I am over the moon happy to spend some quality time with them in person and not just through zoom/video chat. This holiday season will be extra special for me and I am really excited for the start of a new year. I hope 2023 is a successful and relaxing year for us all, I think we deserve a little break from the chaos and turmoil that has been the past few years. Let's pray this year brings the world peace, joy, prosperity and togetherness!



Wegmans Lights On The Lake opens for the season on November 14th at Onondaga Lake Park in Liverpool from 5-10pm nightly.

New this year we'll have a Gingerbread person jumping on a trampoline and over 30 newly lit trees! Also new this year, we're launching the first ever Lights on the Lake ornament & beanie (more info on our site).

Like to run 5k's? We're doing a "Lights on the Lake 5k" on Sunday November 20th... limited space is available so sign up today!

Monday, November 14th & Tuesday, November 15th will be charity giveback nights... in addition to our last 5 nights of the show being for charity - nominations for receiving charities can be found here: <https://www.lightsonthelake.com/charity-submission>

Advance sale tickets can be purchased with a discount of \$5 using code "LOLSANTA" at [LightsOnTheLake.com](https://www.lightsonthelake.com), while supplies last.

Lights on the Lake is presented by: Onondaga County Parks, Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital & Upstate Honda Dealers



*Purchase Tickets In Advance*  
**LIGHTSONTHELAKE.COM**



# **BIBLE TRIVIA**

## **'Tis the Season**

1. Where in the Bible do we read about the birth of Jesus?
2. Which city did Mary and Joseph travel to for the census?
3. How many miles did Mary and Joseph have to travel to get to Bethlehem?
4. What gifts did the wise men bring to Baby Jesus?
5. Which Christmas carol is considered the most popular one of all?
6. Who was the angel that came to Mary and told her that she would give birth to Jesus?
7. Who was the Roman emperor during Jesus' birth?
8. How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give Him the name Jesus?
9. Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
10. How old was Jesus when He began His Ministry?
11. What animals were present at Jesus' birth?
12. Which animal carried Mary before she gave birth to Jesus?
13. What is the spiritual meaning of sheep?
14. Who were the "Wise Men"?
15. Where did the wise men find Jesus?
16. In the accounts of Jesus' birth, how many visits from the angel are there?
17. What is the heavenly host?
18. Who was the one trying to kill Baby Jesus?
19. Where did Jesus' family flee to from Bethlehem?
20. How many times did the angels say "Do not be afraid"?
21. What is the spiritual meaning of cows?
22. What animal did the kings use to travel to Bethlehem?
23. What does "Christ" mean?
24. Where was Jesus raised upon His return to Israel?
25. How old was Jesus when He died?

⇒ *Answers are located on the bottom of **Page 8***

# Thank You



*Thank you for completing another Thanksgiving Bag Challenge! We have collected 42 Thanksgiving bags to be distributed to local families in need before the holiday season! We gave bags to Roxboro Elementary, Phoenix Food Pantry and North Syracuse Christian Church.*



The family of Kathy Snyder and Tracy Turner would like to thank Faith Journey for all that you did for

us during our recent loss. Your kindness and condolences mean everything to us. We appreciate all the love and support you have extended to us during this period of sadness and grief.

## **Buffalo Bills Football Sundays**



**12/11/22 AT 1:00 PM**

Buffalo Bills vs. New York Jets

The following games will be at 1:00 pm and everyone is invited to join us to watch the game, play games, enjoy company and yummy snacks.

Mission Central/C&B 2.0 building  
7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse NY 13212

# DECEMBER SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

## December 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 - Colossians 4:6

Day 2 - Ephesians 4:29

Day 3 - Matthew 5:7

Day 4 - 1 Peter 4:10

Day 5 - Romans 16:17

Day 6 - Hebrews 12:15

Day 7 - Psalms 86:15

Day 8 - Colossians 1:6

Day 9 - 2 Corinthians 9:8

Day 10 - James 2:13

Day 11 - Colossians 3:13

Day 12 - Romans 5:21

Day 13 - Ephesians 2:8-9

Day 14 - John 15:13

Day 15 - Hebrews 4:16

Day 16 - 2 Peter 1:2

Day 17 - 1 John 3:18

Day 18 - Colossians 3:12

Day 19 - 1 Peter 5:5

Day 20 - Luke 17:3-4

Day 21 - Ephesians 4:7

Day 22 - Romans 5:20

Day 23 - 1 Peter 4:8

Day 24 - James 4:6

Day 25 - 1 John 4:7-8

Day 26 - Luke 6:36

Day 27 - Ephesians 4:32

Day 28 - 1 Corinthians 15:10

Day 29 - 2 Peter 3:18

Day 30 - John 1:16

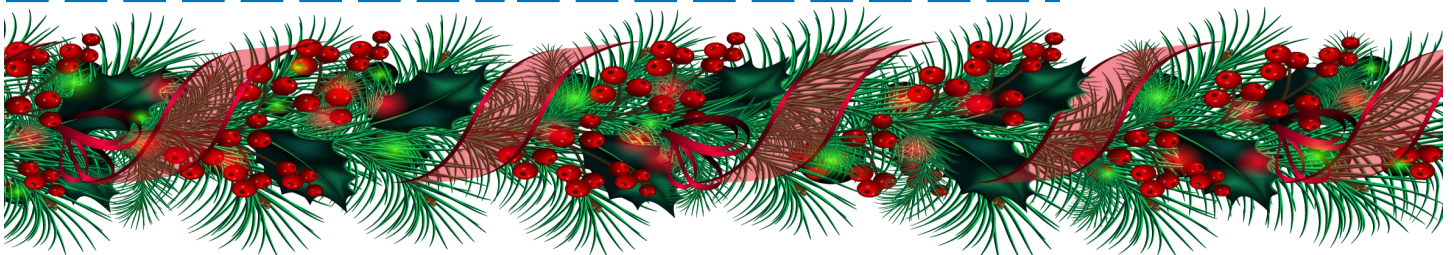
Day 31 - 1 John 4:9-11

### 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.

### THEME:





# 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)



PEAR CRISP



## Pear Crisp

"Juicy pears in a cinnamon-sugar sauce are tucked under a sweet and crunchy pecan-oat topping for this easy Pear Crisp dessert. Fresh or canned pears can be used for a convenient year-round treat!"

<https://www.thekitchenprepblog.com/roasted-apple-bread/>

Recipe by: Amy



PEAR MONTH  
DECEMBER

## INGREDIENTS

### For the Filling:

- ♦ 3 ripe pears, sliced thin into bite-sized pieces
- ♦ 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- ♦ 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ♦ 1 tablespoon corn starch
- ♦ 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ♦ 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ♦ 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

### For the Topping:

- ♦ 1/2 cup old fashioned oats
- ♦ 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- ♦ 1/2 cup brown sugar
- ♦ 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter, melted

### For Serving:

- ♦ Vanilla ice cream, for serving, optional

## DIRECTIONS

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Coat an 8-inch square baking dish with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl toss all of the filling ingredients together until combined. Transfer to the baking dish.
3. In a medium bowl, stir all the topping ingredients together until combined.
4. Evenly sprinkle the topping over the pears.
5. Place in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until the pears are tender and the crust is golden.
6. Serve warm or room temperature with some vanilla ice cream or whipped cream!

**Prep Time: 10 mins.**

**Cook Time: 20 mins.**

**Total Time: 30 mins.**

**Servings: 5**





## Roast Beef Dinner 2022

This was the most successful drive-thru dinner we have had! We served a little more than 300 dinners on a warm, sunny afternoon. Even though we missed Mike Begnoche, Dave Buttolph, Mike Jordan and Butch Remington roasted, sliced and supervised the kitchen area with excellence. A special thanks to everyone who helped bake desserts, serve dinners, run back and forth to cars, donated food for the dinner, and came and purchased dinners. All the volunteers, with their smiles and helpful attitudes, makes this a joy to undertake. This dinner would not be possible without the help of so many! Our profit was \$2,388 - again, the best we have done and a huge boost to paying our bills.

With sincere appreciation to all,  
Linda Raulli, Chairperson



**Bible Trivia Answers:** 1. Luke 2, 2. Bethlehem, 3. Around 90 miles, 4. Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, 5. Silent Night, 6. Gabriel, 7. Caesar Augustus, 8. 40 days, 9. The Shepherds, 10. 33 to 34 years old, 11. Donkey, cows and sheep, 12. A donkey, 13. Christ, both suffering and triumphant, 14. They were astrologers, 15. In the house, 16. 6 visits, 17. An array of angels, 18. King Herod, 19. Egypt, 20. 4 times, 21. Cows represent motherhood, 22. Camels, 23. The anointed one, 24. Nazareth (Matt 2:23), 25. 37 to 38 years old



# DECEMBER 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <i>Craft Sale @ C&amp;B 2.0</i> 9AM - 12PM - Workday
4 <i>Maryna &amp; Friends Christmas Concert, 10:30 am</i>	5	6	7 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	8 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building	9	10 <i>Holiday Party, 3pm-6pm @ FJUMC</i> <i>Craft Sale @C&amp;B</i>
11 <i>Football Sunday @ C&amp;B, 1pm</i>	12	13	14 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	15 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	16	17 <i>Sale @ C&amp;B 2.0, 10am-2pm</i> <i>Craft Sale @ C&amp;B</i>
18	19	20 <i>Sale @ C&amp;B 2.0, 4pm-7pm</i>	21 <i>Sale @ C&amp;B 2.0, 10am-4pm</i> 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	22 <i>Sale @ C&amp;B 2.0, 10am-4pm</i> 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	23 <i>C&amp;B closed for the holidays until 1/3/2023</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve Worship Service, 10am &amp; 6pm</i>
25 <i>Christmas Day Worship Service, 10am</i>	26	27	28 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	29	30	31

## In-Person and Online Worship Service:

Join us in-person or watch us live every Sunday at 10 am on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumccclaynorthsyracuse](https://www.facebook.com/faithjourneyumccclaynorthsyracuse)

## Sermons also available on:

Faithjourneyumc.libsyn.com or <https://www.vimeo.com/channels/fjumc>



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, scarfs and socks*. Thank you for your support!



Share the  
**Warmth**



### *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