



Pastor's

Page

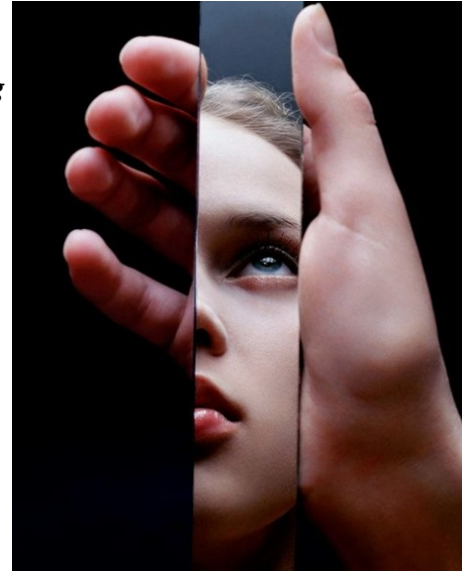


Re·flec·tion /rəˈflekSH(ə)n/ noun

1. *the throwing back by a body or surface of light, heat, or sound without absorbing it: "the reflection of light"*

2. *serious thought or consideration: "he doesn't get much time for reflection"*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. -- Hebrews 1:1-4



Sometimes it takes a good hard look in the mirror to see God at work in our lives. I stand Infront of a mirror every morning and gaze into an old face filled with imperfections. These are, of course, the things that I see. God sees differently. God does not look at us in three dimensions. God sees us in a multi-faceted life of faith full of grace and faith. Each light reflection shining against that silver mirror reminds me that I am not alone.

There was a time when I thought I was alone in this world when I felt that God didn't care about my family or me: those were dark days of pain and suffering. I am thankful that they didn't last. I am grateful that God's grace which is far more than I deserve pulled my life together in a way that honors my faith in God and my family.

Each day we are given a new opportunity to see the world through God's grace. We get to know each person for who we are, a child of God. Unfortunately, there is far too much hate in this world; frankly, I am tired of it. I am tired of all the fighting, backbiting, and politically motivated hit jobs we do to one another. I am tired of feeling overwhelmed by tuning into the evening news, which has become no more than a 'drive-by assignation attempt' to destroy one another. I want a new January. I want a new year full of grace and compassion. I want people to start loving one another for who they are and not what they think they should be.

It's time for a new start. It's time to put away our old ideas of what we think might save our souls and turn to Jesus. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is "*the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.*" It's time to reclaim our peace of mind. It's time to reclaim the things that matter most to us: faith, family, and friends.

Each year we get to start over. Each day we get to breathe in and out the breath of God. We must not take these things for granted. God wants us to be focused on what is in front of us. God wants us to be rigorously honest with one another.

That is the most we can do and hope for in this world which has gone mad with greed, power, envy, strife, and callousness. Listen to your family and friends' words as you reflect on your Christmas and New Year celebrations. Hear the words of their hearts and help them understand that God loves them unconditionally.

2022 has been a long year, but it's over, and I need to let go of all of the stuff that wasn't God and trust in God's unfailing love and mercy. I need to step outside, take a deep breath, and get high on the aroma of the fallen snow and the beauty of the sunshine on the glistening trees covered with ice. I need to see God's reflection in the creation before me and in the mirror when I prepare for the day.

I need to know and understand more fully that God is with me even if I can't see it. Light will always outshine the darkness, and the night will last only a little while. We can make it through this year together, hand in hand and heart in heart. We can and will sojourn together as the day is long, and we will rest in Jesus's arms when it comes to the night.

Every year I set three goals for ministry as a pastor.

They are as follows:

As people of faith, I want Jesus to be more real than he ever has been in the life of the church leadership. I want Jesus to be at the heart of everything we do as a church.

Missions will drive everything that we do as a church. We will be a permission-giving church and help disciples of Jesus discover their "WHY."

Worship, preaching, and teaching will be focused on a passionate understanding of the revelation of God through the scriptures.

I hope you will help me keep these goals and create new and more ostentatious ones along the way. Together we can do this thing called ministry. We are called, confirmed, and witnesses to the works of God in this world and the world that is yet to come. Make Jesus your focus, and the rest will fall into place.

A most blessed New Year to you and your family!

I also want to say thank you so much for the wonderful Christmas Gift that you gave to Mary, me and Kiah. I cannot express enough what a great blessing this was at the end of the year. Thank you for your faith, love, and Grace. Best wishes for a new year.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Daniel J. Bradley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

What's Happening

January:

December 31st - New Years' Eve

January 1st - New Years Day

January 1st - *Communion, Deborah O'Connor Preaches

January 8th - Deborah O'Connor Preaches while Pastor Bradley is on Vacation

January 8th - Volunteer at Samaritan Center, 12:30-3pm @ Samaritan Center

January 15th - Special Sunday, Human Relations Day

January 27th - Mortgage Burning Party, 6pm @ FJUMC

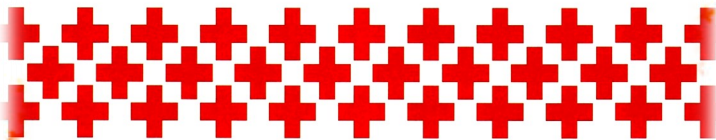
January 28th - SPPRC Meeting, 10am @ FJUMC

January 31st - American Red Cross Blood Drive, 3-7pm @ FJUMC



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
Faith Journey
United Methodist Church
 Fellowship Hall
 8396 Morgan Road, Clay, NY 13041

Tuesday, January 31, 2023
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please contact 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org - use sponsor code - Faith - to schedule your appointment to donate.

Ask for Power Red Cells if you are O-, O+, A- or B-



Come give Jan. 1-31 and automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting trip for you and a guest to Super Bowl LVII in Phoenix! Includes travel, hotel, \$500 gift card, pre-game activities and more! Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2019 The American National Red Cross



Mortgage
PAID OFF

MORTGAGE BURNING PARTY!

Friday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m.

We have fantastic news! We paid off the church mortgage with the sale of the parsonage! We are going to celebrate by burning the mortgage deed on Friday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m. at FJUMC.



We are planning on assisting on Sunday, January 8th with meal service from 12:30 - 3:00 pm at the Samaritan Center. Please email Beth Jordan at bethjordanot@gmail.com if you are interested and available to volunteer on Sunday, January 8th, or if you'd like to learn more about what we will do when volunteering.

FJUMC has volunteered here many times but because of the pandemic they needed to reduce the number of volunteers but are back and fully open and we're excited to serve this community once again.

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



A year in review

In numbers and quotes, we'd like to share the successes of C&B in 2022
32 Organizations / Missions supported

Sponsored two boys this Christmas

"We can always count on Cradle and Beyond, when we are in dire need, we put out a plea and right away, we receive word from you and we get whatever we need" ~Al Amin Mohammed (We Rise Above the Streets)

Winter coat giveaways

"Friends, Cradle and Beyond is one of those quiet, behind the scenes, members of Christ's Body. They have provided Beautiful Mess Ministries and many other organizations with clothing [and other items] in 2022. They have also done this in years past and will do so many years into the future. What is not obvious is that C & B is the result of a team from FJUMC that persevered for years to remodel an old abandoned property. They persisted through all the permitting, inspections, early mornings, late nights, cold coffee and stale donuts to put this together for the community. When I think of what was and what is now, I can't help but think of the passages of Ezekiel 37, where God uses Ezekiel to bring dry, dead bones to life. C&B is an inspiring reminder when it seems like our ministry is lacking, or things aren't happening as fast as I would like, I am reminded that the keys to a life of service are obedience, persistence, faith and hope rather than recognition and performance. ~ Mike Ehrhart (Beautiful Mess Ministries)

"I love this store, thank you for what you do" ~ Ukraine family who was provided personal shopping experiences upon arriving in the US.



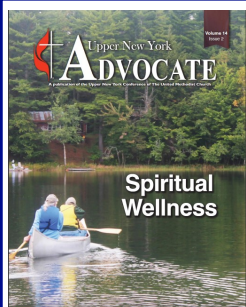
- 4 Holiday Meal in a bag giveaways
- \$4,630 more in sales than we had in 2021
- \$9,923.66 shared with FJUMC / UMC Conference
- 35 dedicated volunteers: 3 new volunteers
- 12 promotional sales
- 451 buckets = 1804 gallons of merchandise sold during bucket sales in 2022
- So, so many donations received, sorted, put out for sale, thinned out and shared with other organizations
- Fundraisers done for Gift Wrapping, Cleartrack for Veterans, Erin's Angels
- Crafters weekends
- Met and supported families fleeing to the US from Ukraine and Afghanistan





SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - JANUARY - "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



The Upper New York Advocate magazine (Volume 14, Issue 2) has been released for Winter 2022 and our own Pastor Daniel Bradley has been published on Page 18 with his story of "I Am Enough."

Grab your copy today on the table in the lobby to read the article and keep the magazine that features our own beloved Pastor!

JANUARY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

I had a great Christmas and New Years celebration and hope you all did too! it was really lovely seeing my older brother, sister in-law, two nephews and niece from North Carolina for the holidays. I had a great time catching up and celebrating being together in a way that felt like pre-pandemic times! I look forward to what the upcoming year has to bring! Wishing you all a happy, healthy and blessed 2023!

THANKS SO MUCH FOR THE HOLIDAY GIFT



I just want to say thank you so much to the congregation of Faith Journey for your generous cash gift this holiday season. It was such a pleasant surprise and I very much appreciate your thoughtfulness, I feel so at home and love each and every one of you! I am very thankful and blessed to be apart of such a wonderful team and have all of you in my life. Your continuous kindness and care warms my heart!

With sincere thanks, Sara Mertz

BIBLE TRIVIA

"Weather"ing through the Bible

1. In Genesis 9:13, what did God send Noah as a promise of no more flooding?
2. In Ezekiel's vision, what came out of the fire he built in Ezekiel 1:13?
3. In Judges 6:37, what was the first sign Gideon asked for to understand God's will for Israel?
4. What was the seventh plague that God cast on the people of Egypt in Exodus 9:23?
5. What made the house fall down on Job's family in Job 1:19?
6. In Genesis 31:40, what bothered Jacob during the nights while he worked in the fields for Laban?
7. *True or False:* God killed more Amorites with hail than the children of Israel did with their swords, according to Joshua 10:11?
8. What was the weather like when Benaiah killed a lion in Moab, according to 2 Samuel 23:20?
9. What was Jesus calming when he said, "Peace, be still" in Mark 4:39?
10. From what book of the Bible does a version of the saying, "Red skies in the morning, sailors take warning" come?

Weather Occurrences of "Biblical" Proportions

1. *Who Am I?* "It rained so hard that nobody except my family and I survived."
2. The Israelites were all stuck between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's men. What did God do to rescue them?
3. In the time of the Judges, the Philistines came to invade Israel. What did God do to terrify the Philistines in 1st Samuel?
4. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah sees a weather occurrence among other interesting happenings. What is it?
5. *Who Am I?* "I went to heaven in a tornado."
6. *Who Am I?* "I ran away from God's calling for me, taking a ship heading towards the opposite direction. Unfortunately, a storm started at sea and the men threw me overboard."
7. A storm came upon the disciples of Jesus while they were at sea. Jesus nearly slept through the storm; He would have if His disciples did not wake Him up. He stilled the waves, and how did the disciples react?
8. Jesus' disciples got caught in a storm but Jesus was not with them. They saw Jesus walking upon the water. Who wanted to walk upon water too?
9. Before the flames of fire alighted upon the disciples of Jesus at the Pentecost, what did they feel?
10. *Who Am I?* "While we were at sea, a large storm came upon our ship so that we all got shipwrecked. A viper bit me, but I was not harmed."

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



Dear Family and Friends:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

After living 9 1/2 years in my patio home near Moyers Corners, I am not living full-time with my other daughter, Karen, who lives in Maryland. Cindy took responsibility for cleaning out my house and it has now been sold.

Living here in Maryland, I now live closer to Karen's 3 adult children: Josh (32) lives near York, PA; Christy (29) lives in Windsor Mill on the west side of the Baltimore Beltway, and Jacob (26) and his wife Faith of 2 1/2 years and their 10 month-old son, Logan Winchester McCurdy, live only 20 minutes north of us. All three have homes in the country. With the birth of Logan, I now have 5 great grandchildren. Also, Cindy's son Brett and his family live only 1 -2 hours away in Northern Virginia.

At 93 years old, I am doing quite well. Karen and I play either Yahtzee, Racko, Bingo or Dominoes almost daily. I also help her around the house with some dinner preparations, dishes, and light cleaning. When able, she and her husband Steve will take me on drives through the countryside. We hope to take one soon to look at the Christmas lights. I also enjoy their dog Elli and their black cat Padfoot.

Please send any correspondence to me at Karen's address:
Jeanne Sharp
2704 Dale Court, Baldwin, MD 21013
My cell phone number is: (315) 412-1092
Karen's cell phone number is: (443) 567-9009
Love to all, Jeanne Sharp

THANK YOU

December 1, 2022

Faith Journey UMC,

Thank you for your donation to the Brown Memorial Church kitchen upgrade. We appreciate your generosity. Wishing you a blessed Holiday Season.

Sincerely, Jean Whitmore



We collected \$100 from Faith Journey and Cradle & Beyond matched that amount, so we were able to donate \$200 to the Brown Memorial Church kitchen upgrade. Thank you for your help!

We also want to thank you for your donation during the Christmas Concert! We collected \$120 in offerings for the Children of Roxboro Middle School.

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 - Proverbs 3:5-6
Day 2 - 2 Chron. 15:7
Day 3 - Psalm 20:4-5
Day 4 - James 4:13-16
Day 5 - Hebrews 12:1-3
Day 6 - Matthew 6:33
Day 7 - Psalm 118:8-9
Day 8 - Psalm 127:1-2
Day 9 - Hebrews 10:35-36
Day 10 - Philemon 4:12-13
Day 11 - Proverbs 4:12-13
Day 12 - Proverbs 16:2-3
Day 13 - Philemon 4:8
Day 14 - Proverbs 19:20-21
Day 15 - Philemon 3:13-14
Day 16 - Romans 12:2

Day 17 - Isaiah 32:8
Day 18 - John 6:27
Day 19 - Proverbs 29:18
Day 20 - John 6:29
Day 21 - Jeremiah 17:7-8
Day 22 - Luke 14:28
Day 23 - Philemon 1:3-6
Day 24 - Ephesians 2:10
Day 25 - Ephesians 4:22-24
Day 26 - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
Day 27 - 1 Peter 3:3-4
Day 28 - Ecclesiastes 7:16-18
Day 29 - Psalm 18:30-32
Day 30 - Psalm 18:33-34
Day 31 - Psalm 18:35-36

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.

THEME:

Setting and achieving goals





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



Blackberry and Cream Cheese Danish

"A flaky, buttery croissant - braided and stuffed with cream cheese and blackberries."

<https://www.sixsistersstuff.com/recipe/easy-blackberry-and-cream-cheese-danish/>

Recipe by: Camille Beckstrand



INGREDIENTS

Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 Tablespoon flour
- 8 ounce tube Pillsbury Crescent rolls or crescent roll sheet
- 21 ounces blackberry pie filling
- 1 cup fresh blackberries

Icing

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 2 Tablespoons heavy cream
- 1/8 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a small bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar, vanilla, and flour. Set aside.
3. Open crescent roll dough and unroll, leaving crescents all together in one large rectangle.
4. On an ungreased baking sheet, lay the crescent roll rectangle. The dough should be almost the entire length of a half sheet pan. (If you're not using crescent roll sheet, be sure to press edges together to even out edges and seal any holes.)
5. Cut 1/2 inch diagonal strips up each side of the dough.
6. Carefully spread cream cheese filling down the center of the dough to be able 2-3 inches wide. Top with blackberry pie filling or fresh blackberries (or both). You may not need to use the whole can, just enough to cover it well.
7. Fold 1/2 inch dough pieces up over filling alternating sides to get a braided pattern. You may have excess dough once you reach the end of the Danish, so fold them in as best you can.
8. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until filling is set and crescent dough is golden brown in color. Cool before removing from baking sheet.
9. Once Danish has cooled, remove to serving platter.

Icing: In a small bowl, whisk together powdered sugar, vanilla and cream to create icing. You may need to add more cream to get the desired consistency. Drizzle icing over Danish, cut into pieces and serve.

Other variations: We think the blackberries in this recipe are delicious, but you could easily make any flavor you'd like. Here are some of our favorites: Apples and cinnamon, cherry, just the cream cheese filling with almond slices on top and raspberry filling with a thin layer of Nutella added inside, too.

Prep Time: 15 mins. / Cook Time: 20 mins.

Total Time: 35 mins. / Serves: 8





Faith Journey UMC Year-in-Review 2022

We have been so very blessed in 2022. Here are a few things that have happened:

We closed on the Morgan Rd. Parsonage and Rev. Bill Mudge and his wife are once again home owners, we couldn't be happier for them. We have leased space to Great Northern Artists Collaborative who will be setting up a theatre in the fellowship hall (of course working around church events in which we will use the hall) – we are so excited to partner with GNAC as they have a similar vision as FJUMC in working with the community.

Now that we are 'living with Covid', church services and church events have embraced a new normal including celebrating Kiah Bradley's confirmation, having five successful chicken BBQ's and two successful roast beef dinners. Elvis returned for a concert / fundraiser, the 9/11 concert was amazing, and Maryna and friends had two concert / fundraisers this year. We hosted a blood drive in the fall and look forward to hosting more in 2023. FJUMC members have signed up and organized monthly missions that included helping the food pantries in addition to raising money and making pillowcases for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Money raised from concerts and school supplies were given faithfully to Roxboro middle and elementary schools. We were graced with Tina N's message on the amazing things she is doing sharing God's love.

Cradle and Beyond, a ministry of FJUMC continues to do unbelievable things (see newsletter) in the community in addition, tithed \$3319. for FJUMC shared ministries, donated \$6088 to satisfy bills for FJUMC and contributed \$516. to FJUMC missions. FJUMC and Cradle and Beyond will work together to sponsor four meals at the Samaritan Center in 2023. The first meal we are sponsoring is **January 8th 12:30-3**. Please contact the FJ office or Beth Jordan, 315-657-5701 if you are interested. In sponsoring the meal, we are able to and responsible for supplying servers and food preparers. Please consider volunteering for this event – your life will be forever changed for the better. <https://samcenter.org/>



Bible Trivia Answers: 1. Rainbow, 2. Lightning, 3. Dew on a fleece, 4. Hail, 5. Mighty wind, 6. Frost, 7. True, 8. It was snowing, 9. The Sea, 10. Matthew, 1. Noah, 2. Cause a stiff east wind to part the sea, 3. Send thunder, 4. A hurricane/tornado, 5. Elijah, 6. Jonah, 7. They were astonished, 8. Peter, 9. A rushing wind, 10. Paul



JANUARY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>*Communion</i> <i>Deborah O'Connor Preaches</i>	2	3	4 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	5 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.	6	7 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
8 <i>Deborah O'Connor Preaches</i> Volunteer at Samaritan Center, 12:30-3pm	9	10	11 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	12 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building	13	14 9AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
15 Special Sunday: Human Relations Day	16	17	18 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	19 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	20	21 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
22	23	24	25 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	26 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	27 Mortgage Burning Party, 6pm @ FJUMC	28 SPPRC Meeting, 10am @ FJUMC 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
29	30	31 American Red Cross Blood Drive, 3-7pm @ FJUMC				

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

Sermons also available on:

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



For the month of **JANUARY**, we will be collecting *any size diapers and baby formula* for CNY Diaper Bank & Brown Memorial UMC.
Thank you for your support!



C **N** **Y** **DIAPER** **BANK**

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

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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