



Pastor's

Page



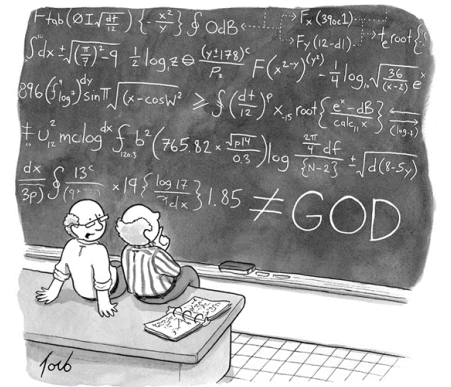
The Stepping Stone

February 2023

The existence of God is something that I have wrestled with over the years. It's not that I did not believe that God existed, but more so, I had questions that needed to be answered. Some of those questions still have not been answered, but I have taken it on faith that God is at work in this world.

These are some of the questions that I have had over the years are as follows:

1. If God is all-powerful, how can God allow evil in the world?
2. Did it take a literal six days to create the world, or was it over millions of years?
3. Why, God, do you allow suffering and loss.
4. Are you (God) with us when we experience pain and death?



"This'll show the Theology Department."

CartoonStock.com

All of these are part of the large question, "Why God." I think for most people; there is a fear of asking questions of God. I am not sure why? God isn't afraid for you to ask questions about God's nature. Imagine if every time our children asked questions, we scolded them. They would stop asking and live in fear of our wrath. We are supposed to ask questions. God gave us a mind, and it was meant for discovery. Faith is a by-product of Scripture, Reason, Tradition, and Experience. Without these four elements, which John Wesley found to be key in our lives, then we will never experience the fullness of God.

The fullest measure of God is Jesus Christ incarnate. That is the answer to "Why God?". In the Gospels, we see a picture of Jesus, who is the healer, teacher, and ultimate sacrifice of God for the sins of humanity. We cannot do faith in a vacuum. We do this faith with Jesus and our faint understanding of God.

I imagine when I die and am face to face with God that, there will be many questions answered. Will I like the answers? I don't know. However, I do know that there will be completeness that I cannot experience here on earth. This is the place and time to "work out our own salvation with fear and trembling." We must be focused on this time, place, and work that is set before us.

¶120 of the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church states the following: "*The Mission*—of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs."

Without the work of the local church in the making of disciples of Jesus Christ, there can be no transformation of the world. The work that we do at Faith Journey United Methodist Church is key to transforming the world. Every time we engage in mission and ministry, we are making one small corner of the world better. That would not happen if we were not making-disciples.

A disciple of Jesus Christ does the following:

1. SEEKS God with their whole heart, mind, and strength.
2. SERVES God and people unconditionally.
3. SHARES God by serving others.

That is the core of who we are as a congregation of faith. It is my hope and prayer that in the new year, you will ask the tough questions of God. I pray that you find peace and the reassurance of God through the Holy Spirit that God is at work in this world.

You are a blessing to Faith Journey United Methodist Church, and it is my blessing to serve as your pastor. If you ever want to have a conversation, please call me at 716-485-6246, and we can arrange a time to meet. I welcome the tough stuff of faith and promise that if I don't know the answer, I will work to find it for you.

Keep walking the road of faith, and know that we are all on this faith journey together. God's blessings for a new year!

In Christ,



Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

*Below is the 2023 Mission Calendar, please contact Beth Jordan at bethjordanot@gmail.com or Sara at fjoffice@fjumc.org to sign up for the food pantry calendar. All you need to do is choose a location you'd like to collect items for and we can contact them to figure out what items they would like us to collect for the month.

2023 Mission Calendar

January	February	March	April
Diaper Bank - Beth	Health and Beauty Supplies for Samaritan Center and Oswego County Homeless - Beth	Erin's Angels	
May	June	July	August
	Minnie - Emmanuel Lutheran Church		
September	October	November	December
Amie Lorani	Stefanie	Thanksgiving Bags Linda	Hat and Mitten Tree

BIBLE STUDY



This past Fall I preached through the book of Habakkuk. From that preaching experience, I have developed a six-session study to go deeper into Habakkuk's message of complaining and God's response. We will explore themes of suffering and God's grace in those moments of suffering and explore the deeper concepts of praying through tough times.

Goals and Objectives:

1. The student will be able to articulate a prophet's job and responsibility as a prophetic voice in biblical times.
2. The student will be able to understand the concept of suffering and despair and what to do with those feelings and emotions when confronted with them.
3. The student will have a knowledge of the power of visioning for a new future designed by God.
4. The student will become biblically literate understanding that the Old Testament books of the bible are just as important as the New Testament.

Bible Study with Pastor Daniel Bradley Dates & Times:

Wed. February 1st (4-6pm) @ C&B Building

Wed. February 15th (4-6pm) @ C&B Building

Wed. March 8th (4-6pm) @ C&B Building

Wed. March 15th (4-6pm) @ C&B Building

Sat. April 1st (10am-1pm) @ Faith Journey UMC in Fellowship Hall/ the Kitchen to bake the communion bread

Wed. April 12th (4-6pm) @ C&B Building

Faith Journey UMC (8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041) / C&B 2.0 (7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212)

*Refreshments will be provided at each Bible study meeting.

One of the companion books we will use is:

[Hand, Cynthia. The Last Time We Say Goodbye. First edition. ed. New York, NY: HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2015.](#)

The Last Time We Say Goodbye

There's death all around us. We just don't pay attention. Until we do.

The last time Lex was happy, it was before. When she had a family that was whole. A boyfriend she loved. Friends who didn't look at her like she might break down at any moment. Now she's just the girl whose brother killed himself. And it feels like that's all she'll ever be. Lex's brother is gone. But Lex is about to discover that a ghost doesn't have to be real to keep you from moving on. From New York Times bestselling author Cynthia Hand, *The Last Time We Say Goodbye* is a gorgeous and heart-wrenching story of love, loss, and letting go.

With all the loss that the Faith Journey United Methodist Church has experienced over the past couple of years, I thought that exploring this book would be uplifting and a powerful way to help us deal with trauma and grief in the context of the Christian Faith.

I hope you will join us for this study, please RSVP with Sara at fjoffice@fjumc.org or leave a message at 315-652-9186!

God Bless, Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

What's Happening

February:

February 1st - Bible Study, 4-6pm @ C&B Building

February 4th, 8th, 14th & 23rd - Valentine's Sale @ C&B, 25% off total sales

February 8th - Finance Team Meeting, 6:30 pm @ FJUMC

February 9th, 10th & 11th - GNAC Star Wars Musical, 7pm @ FJUMC

February 12th - GNAC Star Wars Musical, 1pm @ FJUMC

February 14th - Valentine's Day

February 15th - Bible Study, 4-6pm @ C&B Building

February 22nd - Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7pm @ FJUMC

February 26th - Pancake Breakfast, 9-9:45 am @ FJUMC

February 26th - Samaritan Center Volunteer, 1230-3pm

LENTEN

Pancake Breakfast

Join us EVERY SUNDAY from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. during Lent, Feb. 26th until Easter, April 9th for a pancake breakfast at Faith Journey UMC.



LIFE HOUSE

RESET. RESTORE. REBUILD. RELAUNCH.

**All donations received will be given to Life House Ministry*

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

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Worship Schedule for Holy Week

Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday
Friday, April 7th at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Worship
Sunday, April 9th at 6:30 a.m. for Sunrise Service with Pancake Breakfast to follow
Sunday, April 9th at 10:00 a.m. for Traditional Service
Faith Journey UMC
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041



We have picked another date to volunteer at the Samaritan Center. Mark your calendars for February 26th from 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us and helping out, please contact Beth Jordan at bethjordanot@gmail.com or 315-657-5701. Samaritan Center, 215 N State St. Syracuse, NY 13203

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



It is hard to believe that February is here already. We sure have been spared bad weather in January, no complaints here. January was super busy at the store; we have had record breaking sales days, and we will come close to or surpass any other monthly total.



Merchandise is being turned over naturally because we have been so busy - because of this we will not be having a BIG sale in February but instead, we will have a **one-day sale each week**. We have had so many compliments on the appearance of the store and continue to have new customers each day. We now have a safe in which all daily monies are deposited for better security and we also have 5 carts for customers to shop with! It's amazing to see them all being used at the same time.

You may have noticed that new white covers were placed over the metal posts on the side and front of the store. This was done in preparation for new banners to be hung. We will be hanging them soon. New signs will be hung on the building to better share with our customers when we are open and vinyl letters will be put on some of the windows too. By request, we placed a new open / closed sign by the parking lot door - this will be especially helpful if customers come early or if work is being done in the store outside of our open hours. Keep up the great work and know you are making a difference.
Thank you!



Valentine's SALE

ONE-DAY SALE EACH WEEK

Sat. 2/4 (10am-2pm): 25% off total sales
Wed. 2/8 (10am-4pm): 25% off total sales
Tues. 2/14 (4pm-7pm): 25% off total sales
Thurs. 2/23 (10am-4pm): 25% off total sales

Come in to C&B during these dates and times
to receive 25% off your total sale!

CRADLE & BEYOND 2.0
7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212



February



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY - "LOVE BRINGS FREEDOM"

"But I, [LORD] by your great love, can come into your house." - Psalm 5:7



FEBRUARY HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

I hope you all had a great start to 2023! It's been a busy and exciting start of the year for me, there's a lot of fun events happening at Faith Journey and Cradle & Beyond! It's been really nice volunteering at C&B 2.0 and interacting with the kindest people within our community, it's nice making friends with others whom I would otherwise possibly never meet. You never know what difference you could make in the lives of others, or in yourself when given a purpose and mission. I hope you get a chance to stop by the store and see all the new improvements and updates!



Winter Fair at New York State Fairgrounds

Friday February 3rd 2023 (2pm-10pm)

Saturday February 4th 2023 (10am-10pm)

Sunday February 5th 2023 (10am-6pm)

Expo Center New York State Fairgrounds, Syracuse New York

Advanced Sale Tickets are available online at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/5355993/winter-fair-2023-syracuse-new-york-state-fair-expo-center>

Advanced Sale Tickets are: \$5 Adults, \$3 Seniors (65+) and Teens (11-16) plus a small fee. Children 10 and under are FREE!

At the Box Office, Tickets are: \$7 Adults, \$5 Seniors (65+) and Teens (11-16). Children 10 and under are FREE!

FREE Parking for Advanced Sale Tickets.

If you purchase your ticket at the Box Office up until 7pm, Parking is FREE. If you attend after 7pm without an Advanced Sale Ticket, Parking will be \$10, However, Admission will be FREE to Winter Fair inside the Expo Center.

BIBLE TRIVIA

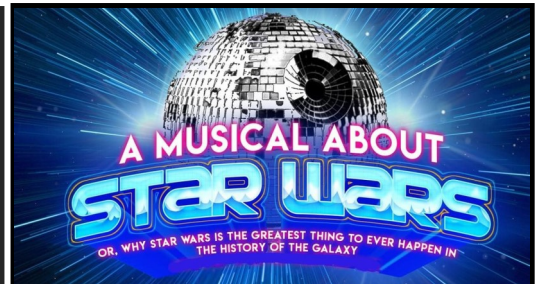
Love & Marriage in the Bible

1. What was the name of Abraham's wife?
2. How was Isaac's wife chosen?
3. Which of his wives did Jacob love the most?
4. What happened to Shechem, the prince who fell in love with Dinah, daughter of Jacob?
5. Where did Moses meet his future wife?
6. What were the restrictions on marriage for the daughters of Zelophehad?
7. What was the name of Ruth's second husband?
8. Samson loved Delilah so much that she persuaded him to tell her what?
9. What was the name of Abigail's first husband?

From what book of the Bible does a version of the saying, "Red skies in the morning, sailors take warning" come?

10. What convinced David he was in love with Bathsheba, to the extent that he was prepared to commit adultery?
11. Who did Amnon love, and then hate even more than he had loved her?
12. Who told his wife not to worry that she was barren and said, "am not I better to thee than ten sons"?
13. In the love poetry in Song of Solomon, how is the lady's hair described?
14. What was the occupation of Hosea's wife?
15. Who does Jesus say are the two most important people to love?
16. Which married couple did Paul become friends with at Corinth?
17. What is Paul's command to husbands in his letter to the Colossians?
18. What does Paul say is the greatest?
19. How does Paul describe marriage in Hebrews?
20. Of what is the husband's love for the wife a symbol?

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



Star Wars the Musical

Show Dates/Times:

Thursday, 2/9 @ 7pm

Friday, 2/10 @ 7pm

Saturday, 2/11 @ 7pm

Sunday, 2/12 @ 1pm

Get your tickets at Ticketor.com/GNAC

Faith Journey UMC, Fellowship Hall
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay NY 13041



Dear Faith Journey UMC,

Thank you for your total contribution of \$500.00 to One Hope for Asia. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Lynn Lizzi



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Dear Faith Journey United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc., it's members, sponsors, volunteers, and bed recipients, we would like to thank you for your generous donation. Many people don't know there are so many kids sleeping on the floor or in other uncomfortable situations and SHP aims to solve this crisis. This would not be possible without your generosity. Our mission is to see that NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

We thank you so much for your donation of \$540, as well as various pillowcases and bedding items. Again, we greatly appreciate your love and support for our cause and hope that we continue to work with you in the future.

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

February 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 - 1 John 3:16-18
Day 2 - Psalm 103:16-18
Day 3 - 1 John 4:7-9
Day 4 - 1 John 4:10-12
Day 5 - 1 John 4:13-15
Day 6 - 1 John 4:16-18
Day 7 - 1 John 4:19-21
Day 8 - Deuteronomy 7:8-10
Day 9 - Deuteronomy 10:11-13
Day 10 - Lamentations 3:21-23
Day 11 - Romans 5:6-8
Day 12 - Ephesians 4:15-16
Day 13 - Hebrews 12:6-9
Day 14 - Mark 10:21-22

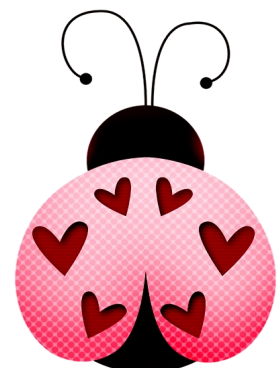
Day 15 - Proverbs 17:9-10
Day 16 - Ephesians 5:28-31, 33
Day 17 - Titus 2:3-5
Day 18 - Psalm 147:10-12
Day 19 - John 15:9-11
Day 20 - John 15:12-14
Day 21 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-8
Day 22 - Proverbs 15:16-17
Day 23 - 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
Day 24 - Matthew 5:43-47
Day 25 - Matthew 22:37-40
Day 26 - John 13:34-35
Day 27 - Hosea 6:5-6
Day 28 - Micah 6:7-9

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:

Love





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



Chocolate Chip Cranberry Bread

"This cranberry bread is tender and moist. The first time I made it, it immediately became a staple favorite for the fall and winter holidays. The tart cranberries complement the sweet chocolate so well." - Jessica from Idaho

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/chocolate-chip-cranberry-bread/>

Recipe by: Taste of Home

INGREDIENTS

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 3/4 cup, 2% milk
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, halved
- 1 cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Streusel

- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons cold butter
- 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 to 3 tablespoons whole milk

DIRECTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Whisk the egg, milk and butter; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened.
3. Fold in the cranberries and chocolate chips. Transfer to prepared pan.
4. In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar, flour and cinnamon; put in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter.
5. Bake for 60-65 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
6. Cool for 10 minutes; loosen sides of bread from pan. Cool completely before removing from pan.

For the Glaze: Mix confectioners' sugar and 2 tablespoons milk until smooth; if needed, add additional 1 tablespoon milk to reach desired consistency. Drizzle glaze over top of bread; allow to sit 10-15 minutes before slicing.

Prep Time: 20 mins. / Bake Time: 1 hr. + cooling

Makes: 1 loaf (16 slices)

RECIPE





Financial Report for 2022

I wanted to let everyone know how Faith Journey is doing financially, especially in light of how we have seen organizations and businesses around us adjust to a post-COVID world. It gives me great pleasure to report that congregational support has been consistent in 2022 and 2021 at just under \$120,000 annually. Other income such as interest, building use and fundraisers have varied a little – some up and some down – but overall have been similar for 2022 and 2021.

For missions in 2022, we have contributed \$1,810 to Upper New York Conference items such as Human Relations, Shared Ministry, UMCOR, etc. An additional \$660 has gone to local projects and \$1712.40 has been contributed to Southern Sudan Health Project. These contributions are a little lower than 2021, most notably donations to SSHP which are only about half of what was given in 2021.

Now for the bad news!! Even with the help of a little more than \$20,000 given from C & B 2.0, Chicken Bar-B-Q and Memorial Funds, we were not able to meet all of our UNYC expenses. These expenses cover our Pastor's health and retirement benefits as well as other conference expenses. Unfortunately, expenses rise each year unlike income that remains about the same.

The proceeds from the sale of the Morgan Road parsonage at the end of December will allow us to pay off the church mortgage early. This will reduce expenses \$1,479 per month. (Calculated on \$1,729 monthly mortgage, less \$500 monthly parsonage rental, increased by \$250 theater group rental.) This means for the remainder of 2023 we will realize a savings of \$16,269 in mortgage expenses and the elimination of this debt for future years.

With the continued support of the congregation and our other fundraisers, this year may be the closest to a balanced budget that we have seen in 15 years! I hope I haven't jinxed the mechanical world in the building by sharing my optimism, but I feel we have the opportunity to shift our focus more to God's work and less on paying the bills. Our church, as a whole, has accomplished so much in the face of financial hardships – just imagine what can be done with an easing of that burden!

Again, thank you all for your continued support and join me in getting excited for the future of Faith Journey!!

Linda Rauli, Treasurer



Lucine Farling is turning 101 on February 24, 2023. Her address is included below for anybody who would like to send Happy Birthday wishes and blessings her way!

Lucine Farling
2214 Providence Circle
Rochester, NY 14616



Bible Trivia Answers: 1. Sarah, 2. His father sent a servant back to Mesopotamia to choose a wife from his own family, 3. Rachel, 4. He, his father, and the men of his city were slain by Dinah's brothers, 5. At a well in the land of Midian, 6. They must marry within their tribe, 7. Boaz, 8. The secret of his strength, 9. Nabal, 10. He saw her take a bath, and saw she was beautiful, 11. Tamar, 12. Elkanah, 13. As a flock of goats, 14. Harlot, 15. God and your neighbour, 16. Aquila and Priscilla, 17. Love your wives, and do not be bitter towards them, 18. Love, 19. Honorable, 20. Christ's love for the church

FEBRUARY 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Bible Study, 4-6pm @ C&B Building</i> 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	2 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.	3	4 <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B, 10am-2pm, 25% off</i>
5 <i>*Communion</i>	6	7	8 <i>Finance Team Meeting, 6:30 @ FJUMC</i> <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm, 25% off</i>	9 <i>GNAC Star Wars Musical, 7pm at FJUMC/Fellowship Hall</i> 9AM-12PM -	10 <i>GNAC Star Wars Musical, 7pm at FJUMC/Fellowship Hall</i>	11 <i>GNAC Star Wars Musical, 7pm at FJUMC/Fellowship Hall</i> 9AM - 12 PM - Workday
12 <i>GNAC Star Wars Musical, 1pm @ FJUMC/Fellowship Hall</i>	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B, 4-7pm, 25% off</i>	15 <i>Bible Study, 4-6pm @ C&B Building</i> 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	16 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	17	18 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
19	20	21	22 <i>Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 7pm @ FJUMC</i>	23 <i>Valentine's Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm, 25% off</i>	24	25 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
26 <i>Lenten Pancake Breakfast, 9-9:45am @ FJUMC</i> <i>Volunteer at Samaritan Center, 12:30-3pm</i>	27	28				

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 **FEBRUARY**, we will be collecting *Health and Beauty supplies for Samaritan Center and Oswego County Homeless.*
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

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