

The Stepping Stone July 2023

"Expecting the unexpected guest..."

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so, we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that ${}^{\underline{b}}$ it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." - 1 John 3:1-2

t goes without saying that Faith Journey United Methodist Church is an inclusive church. We have all kinds of people in the church, and they all make up a tapestry of faith in God. We may not always agree about everything, but the one constant that we hang our hats on is that Jesus is Lord. That is the common thread



that pulls us together in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. This is grace, not that we loved God, but that God loved us and sent Jesus into this world to redeem us from the law of sin and death.

Not too long ago, I was not an inclusive person. I understood scripture and theology to be exclusive as opposed to inclusive of all persons. I have never been so wrong. It took getting out of my comfort zone and hanging out with people that were different than me, and seeing God's grace in and through them to realize my own fallacies. I am not a perfect person, nor have I arrived at a fully sanctified state. I am human, and I make many mistakes. I thank God that God gives me the grace to make amends with those I hurt and repair relationships. In some cases, throughout my life, making amends has not been possible on this side of heaven. For that, my heart is grieved, but I trust in God that in the twinkling of an eye and the blink of death turning into new life, all will be set right.

I just finished reading an incredible book about life and faith. It is entitled, <u>On Our Best Behavior: the Seven Deadly Sins and the Price Women Pay to be Good.</u> The book by Elise Loehnen, while written primarily for women, is very instructional for men. If you are a man reading this article, I encourage you to get a copy and read it for yourself and fully understand the culture of patriarchy and the damage it has done to women in this world. Loehnen writes of faith, "Faith revolves around an attachment that there is something bigger than my [our] existence." For me, that is God and the reality that I am not in charge of this world. There is nothing that is in my control except for how I respond in the face of injustice, oppression, and chaos. This is the cry of the Christian faith. How we respond and how people see us tells a story about the God that we praise on Sunday morning.

Is God an angry God? A loving God? A God of exclusion or inclusion? Are all welcome to find God in whatever form they present themselves?

The greatest sin humanity commits; is reveling in one's vanity. This world is not about us or our needs. It is a love story of the God of the universe pouring out God's blessings on an imperfect world. Thank God for grace and the depths of grace that are unknown. Thank God that God does not hold my sins which are great against me. We must be a people of grace, compassion, and mercy—slow to anger and full of love. If we want the world to know what we know, then we must face the reality that we have an imperfect church run by imperfect people, all needing the grace of God.

At times I can be arrogant and self-centered. I can be the center of my own universe and think that the sun, moon, and stars revolve around me. I can judge people harshly—particularly other clergy and have the impotence to want to correct their perceived errors. This is not helpful or grace-filled behavior; it is a sin. The second I judge someone by my standards, that standard is applied to me. How can I judge someone's behaviors harshly when I am committing the same perceived sins?

The multitude of errors and sins that I have committed leave me wondering if God can love me. The answer to that question is that God loves you and me no more or less than God does today. God gave this gift in Jesus that we might have the fullness of life and the faith to move mountains. Right now, I've got mountains to move and very little faith. What is the essence of faith? "Faith revolves around an attachment that there is something bigger than my [our] existence." That is the key. All of the stuff that we think is important really isn't; if we don't grasp a larger view of the world and all of its splendor, then we will have missed the point of God drawing near when we were far away.

Each week we open the doors of the church to people from all walks of life. There is no litmus test to come to Faith Journey United Methodist Church. There is no magic handshake or creed that must be recited before entering the sanctuary. There is only a desire to meet God on God's terms and not our own. This thing called faith needs to be exercised each time we greet one another in grace and thanksgiving, knowing that God is working things out.

Faith is touching God through our brokenness, pain, and sin, holding on to the hands of Jesus. It is my hope that as we greet people, we look not to the differences but to the grace and faith that binds us together.

"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." —1 John 3:2

In Christ,

Rev. Daniel . Thudlig

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley



Letter From the Trustees:

We are so excited to share that our beautiful church is finally getting a welldeserved facelift. On July 2, 2023, the sanctuary will be closed off so that things can begin. We are asking that anyone who would like to help begin cleaning out of spaces to come to the church at 4:30 on Wednesday, July 5th for pizza, drinks and lots of stuff to move. Here is a timeline of what will be happening over the summer:

July 5: 4:30-7:30 - cleaning out closets in the sanctuary, cleaning out toys from playroom (nursery) and getting the narthex and conference rooms ready to take on pews.

Between July 5 - 15 - move pews out of sanctuary and ensure walls are cleared for painters (hired)

Sometime between July 17 - July 31: Sanctuary will be painted. We are investigating new lighting which we hope will be installed over the summer (by us).

Early August: Stairwell walls and trim will be repainted (by us)

The week of August 21 - 27: Sanctuary, playroom (nursery) and stairs will be re -carpeted (hired)

Between August 27 - September 10 - pews will be reinstalled (us), lighting will hopefully be updated and pews & chairs will be cleaned and sanitized (hired); the playroom (nursery) will be reassembled (us).

This is a huge undertaking and has been in the works for years - we are so fortunate that because of proceeds from the sale of the Morgan Rd. parsonage and generous gifts from the memorial committee and Chicken BBQ team that this can be done at this time.

You may be asking, 'what about the narthex'? This will be phase 2 of the redesign process and will likely happen in 2024.

There will be times over the summer that we could use extra hands so stay tuned to your email.

Thank you. The Trustees



<u>July:</u>

July 2nd - Sanctuary closed, construction begins July 2nd - Picnic after worship service, 11am July 4th - Independence Day (office + C&B closed) July 5th - Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, rock painting July 5th - July 8th - Fourth of July Bucket Sale all week long @ C&B 2.0

July 8th - Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am-sold out @ FJUMC

July 12th - Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, yard games July 13th - 16th - Syracuse Middle Eastern Festival July 15th - SPPRC Meeting, 1pm

July 19th - Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, floral arrangements

July 20th - Ministries Council Meeting, 6:30pm July 26th - Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, flip flop garden decorations

Future Events:

August 12th & 19th - GNAC; The Awesome 80s Prom, 7pm

August 17th - United Methodist Family & Friends Night at the Ballpark, 6:35pm @ NBT Bank Stadium September 9th - Faith Journey Syracuse Mets Baseball Game, 6:35pm @ NBT Bank Stadium



GET READY FOR NEW CARPET, FRESH PAINT & IMPROVED LIGHTING!

We will be closing the sanctuary off on July 2, 2023, so that the carpet can be replaced and the sanctuary will be painted. The nursery room and stairs will also be recarpeted.

The narthex and meeting room's carpet flooring and walls will be replaced at a future date.



Also, everybody is invited to stay after service on July 2nd for a picnic! We will provide hotdogs and hamburg-

ers, and ask that you please bring a dish to share! Thank you!



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:

Tuesday4 pm - 7 pmWednesday10 am - 4 pmThursday10 am - 4 pmSaturday10 am - 2 pm

Contact Information:

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





We are off to a great start to summer. We had a record selling week the second week in June, exceeding just over \$1200 - Keep up the great work! This may be an anomaly but, this is the second time we have made over \$1000 in one week this year! It's not necessarily about the money but this validates how many relationships and community partnerships that we have made. We continue to get so many donations, thanks to everyone who worked to ensure the spring / summer clothes were put out.

C&B will be closed on Saturday 7/1 and Tuesday 7/4, we hope that you enjoy the holiday weekend. We will reopen with a four-day \$5 Bucket Sale, including being open on Friday 7/7.

For July, we will be trying something new to open Mission Central to the community. On Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:00 we will have "lunch and craft time". This is a free event and open to anyone.

Thank you for all that you do, you mean the world to C&B!

FOURTH OF JULY BUCKET SALE

C&B will be closed July 1 - July 4, reopening on Wednesday, July 5th with a BUCKET SALE!

> Wed. July 5th (10am-4pm) Thurs. July 6th (10am-4pm) Fri. July 7th (10am-4pm) Sat. July 8th (10am-2pm)

> > Cradle & Beyond 2.0 7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212

Crafts & Lunch at Cradle & Beyond 2.0

Join us every Wednesday in July, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

July 5: Paint and take rocks July 12: Yard games July 19: Make and take floral arrangements July 26: Flip Flop Garden Decoration

Hotdogs, chips and water will be provided. This is a FREE event for persons of all ages. RSVP to 315-980-8004 to ensure we have enough food and materials. Thank you!



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





SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - JULY - "BEAUTIFUL VESSELS"

"Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit." -John 7:37-39



<u>July</u>

It's been a great summer so far! During the last week in June, my older Brother, Ryan and his family came to visit from North Carolina, it was really nice seeing them and I hope we are able to visit again come Thanksgiving or Christmas time. I wish the weather was a little nicer during their stay, since it was rainy and we are still experiencing air quality problems from the Canadian Wildfires, but it was a pleasant and joyful visit nonetheless! There's so much planned in July at Faith Journey and the C&B building. I am excited to see all the updates and im-

provements around the Church, it's super awesome that we have the resources and funds to give the sanctuary a well-deserved renovation. I know there's a lot of work to be done and items to be moved (as detailed in the Trustees Letter), so I'm hoping to contribute and help out in anyway that I can!



UNITED METHODIST NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

A Family & Friends Fun Night Sponsored by: Syracuse United Methodist Ministries



Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 6:35 p.m.



Our 43rd annual United Methodist Night at the Ballpark game - Syracuse Mets vs. Columbus Clippers, Ohio.

There will be no tailgate party this year, but food and beverages will be discounted. Like last year, we will have 200-level assigned (not 300-level benches). We will gather at 6:15 p.m. at Home Plate to sing and Bishop Hector A. Burgos Nunez will throw out the First Pitch at about 6:20 p.m.

Please, do not miss this fun event! Order your tickets by July 27th. Please fill out the information on the order form and mail to Bellevue Heights UMC, 2112 S. Geddes Street, Syracuse, NY 13207. United Methodist Ballpark order forms are available on the table in the lobby!

NBT BANK STADIUM - 1 Tex Simone Dr. Syracuse, NY 13208

BIBLE TRIVIA

They Heard Voices Pt. 2

1. According to Psalms, what trees are broken by the power of God's voice?

2. Who heard a voice telling of the fall of Babylon?

3. Which Gospel mentions the dead awakening to the voice of the Son of God?

4. What, according to Proverbs, lifts its voice up in the streets?

5. What city in Revelation was seen as a place that would never again hear the voices of brides and grooms?

6. According to Jesus, whose voice do the sheep know?

7. What book mentions the sweet voices of lovers in the garden?

8. In Revelation, where did the voice proclaiming the new heaven and earth come from?

9. Who heard God's voice in the temple in the year that King Uzziah died?

10. Who came forth when Jesus called to him in a loud voice?

11. What prophet predicted that Rachel's voice would be heard, wailing for her dead children?

12. Which Gospel mentions the voice of God speaking during Jesus' farewell address to his disciples?

13. What prophet mentions Jerusalem with the voice of a ghost?

14. Who heard the voice of Jesus many months after Jesus' ascension to heaven?

15. What epistle mentions an archangel's voice in connection with the resurrection of believers?

16. What prophet's voice did the returned Jewish exiles obey?

17. What prophet mentions a voice crying in the wilderness?

18. Who heard the voice of God as he watched four mysterious creatures flying under a crystal dome?

19. Who recognized Peter's voice after he was miraculously delivered from prison?

20. According to Isaiah, what noble person will not lift up his voice in the streets?

21. According to Paul, what language did the divine voice use on the Damascus road?

22. What king called to Daniel in an anguished voice?

23. Which epistle mentions the voice of Balaam's donkey?

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



Great Northern Artists Collaborative 1st Annual Summer Fundraiser!

The Awesome 80s Prom presented by Ken Davenport and the Class of 1989! All proceeds go towards 2024 kids classes!

Saturday, August 12th & Saturday, 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$20 www.ticketor.com/GNAC





We are nearing the end of the Baby Bottle Campaign that we started collecting on Mother's Day! There's still time to fill empty baby bottles with loose change, bills, or checks. If you are interested in contributing before the end of the campaign, there are empty bottles on the table in the lobby for you to fill.

Please bring your filled bottles in by the end of June and/or beginning of July, so they can be returned to Care Net and donations can be distributed to help those soon-to-be parents and new parents who are in need of assistance. Thank you!

JULY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

July

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 Exodus 6:5-7 Day 2 - Exodus 16:2-3 Day 3 - Leviticus 26:12-13 Day 4 - Joshua 24:16-17 Day 5 - 1 Samuel 12:21-22 Day 6 - Psalm 118:5-7 Day 7 - Matthew 11:28-30 Day 8 - John 8:31-33 Day 9 - John 8:31-33 Day 9 - John 8:34-36 Day 10 - Act 13:36-39 Day 11 - Acts 15:10 Day 12 - Romans 6:17-18 Day 13 - Romans 6:19 Day 14 - Romans 8:19-21 Day 15 - 2 Corinthians 1:10
- Day 16 2 Corin, 3:15-17
- Day 17 Galatians 1:3-5 Day 18 - Galatians 4:8-9 Day 19 - Galatians 4:21-26 Day 20 - Galatians 5:1 Day 21 - Galatians 5:13-15 Day 22 - Colossians 1:13-14 Day 23 - 1 Timothy 1:15-16 Day 24 - Hebrews 2:14-15 Day 25 - Hebrews 4:8-10 Day 26 - Hebrews 10:1-4 Day 27 - Hebrews 10:12-14 Day 28 - James 1:22-25 Day 29 - 1 Peter 2:15-17 Day 30 - 2 Peter 2:18-20 Day 31 - 1 John 4:9-10

<u>What are Scrípture</u>

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: Freedom

in Christ

8





Blueberry Surprise

"Blueberry surprise is what summer dreams are made of. A tart homemade blueberry filling is sandwiched between layers of lightly sweetened, fluffy cream cheese and whipped cream, all on top of buttery cornmeal shortbread. Please try not to fight over it!"

Recipe by: Brooke Caison

https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a40010925/blueberry-

NGREDIENTS

CRUST:

- 6 oz. cold butter, cut into 1" pieces, plus more for pan
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup cornmeal
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup toasted, chopped almonds

BLUEBERRY FILLING:

- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 lb. fresh or frozen blueberries, thawed
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar

WHIPPED CREAM TOPPING:

- 1 1/2 heavy cream
- 1/4 powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

CREAM CHEESE FILLING:

- 8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 2 tablespoon sour cream
- 2 tablespoon toasted, chopped almonds

SHORTBREAD CRUST:

1. Preheat oven to 325 and grease bottom and sides of a 10" springform pan with butter. Line sides of pan with a 30" by 2" strip of parchment paper.

2. In a large bowl, whisk flour, cornmeal, and salt. Use a hand mixer or stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment on medium speed, beat butter and powdered sugar, scraping down sides of bowl, until butter pieces are no longer visible and mixture is smooth, 4 to 5 minutes.

3. Scrape sides of bowl, reduce mixer speed and add in dry ingredients; mix just to combine. Add almonds and mix just to combine.

July is

National

Blueberry

4. Transfer dough to prepared pan. Working quickly as to not melt butter in dough, press evenly onto bottom of pan. Bake until edges are golden brown, about 20 minutes, then transfer pan to a wire rack and let cool.

BLUEBERRY FILLING:

1. In a small saucepan, whisk lemon juice, water, and cornstarch to combine. Add blueberries and powdered sugar. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until mixture is saucy but blueberries are still mostly whole, about 8 minutes.

2. Pour into a shallow heatproof container and chill in refrigerator until cold, about 30 minutes.

WHIPPED CREAM TOPPING:

1. In stand mixer fitted with whisk attachment on medium speed, or with hand mixer, whip the cream, powdered sugar, and cornstarch until stiff peaks form, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer to a medium bowl from mixer.

BLUEBERRY FILLING:

1. In stand mixer or with hand mixer on medium speed, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, and sour cream until combined and fluffy, about 30 seconds. Fold one-half of whipped cream into cream cheese mixture. Chill until ready to use.

2. Once crust and blueberry filling have completely cooled, spread cream cheese mixture on crust, spreading to edges. Spoon blueberry filling over cream cheese mixture. Top with remaining whipped cream; sprinkle with almonds, wrap entire pan with plastic wrap and chill for at least 4 hours before serving.

Recipe notes:

• The crust is essentially a shortbread crust with a little added razzle-dazzle from the chopped almonds and cornmeal, but it can also be made with traditional graham cracker crust or a Biscoff cookie crust.

- When it comes to variations on this recipe, the sky's the limit! Other great combos include pitted cherries + lime juice, raspberries + orange juice, and blackberries + passion fruit juice.
- Blueberry surprise will keep in the refrigerator for up to 5 days, wrap the entire springform pan in plastic to keep the layers intact.

Yields: 12 servings



It's been a decade, but we are back with **Ted & Amy's Clam Bake!** A spectacular summer event featuring mouthwatering delights, exciting games, fabulous prizes and toe-tapping music by Hard Promises.

Open to the public and presented by Sharkey's on Sunday, June 23rd at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Four hours of all you can eat shrimp, chicken, sausage sandwiches, and so much MORE! Plus beer, soft drinks, lemonade, iced tea and coffee all included for just \$93 per person.

Get your tickets today at **Syracusetix.com** Adult Ticket: \$93 / At the door: \$103 Children (under 12 years) Ticket: \$23 / At the door: \$23

> Sharkey's Bar & Grill 7240 Oswego Rd. Liverpool, NY 13090



Syracuse Middle Eastern Festival 2023 *Celebrating the Arabic culture through food, music, & dance*

Thursday, July 13th - Sunday, July 16th July 13th (4 pm-10pm), July 14 (4pm-10pm) July 15 (12pm-10pm), July (12pm-6pm)

Come & enjoy a full-course menu of Arabic food made from scratch!!

St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church 4988 Onondaga Road, Syracuse, NY 13215 Email: StEliasNY@aol.com Phone: (315) 399-7912 www.SaintEliasNY.com syracusemideastfest.com

Live Arabic music, dance performances, gifts. All major credit cards accepted, ATM available, no pets allowed.

FREE parking and **FREE** admission! Kid-friendly menu, games and playground for kids.

<u>Bible Trivia Answers</u>: 1. The cedars of Lebanon, 2. John, 3. John, 4. Wisdom, 5. Babylon, 6. The shepherd's, 7. Song of Solomon, 8. The throne, 9. Isaiah, 10. Lazarus, 11. Jeremiah, 12. John, 13. Isaiah, 14. Paul, 15. 1 Thessalonians, 16. Haggai's, 17. Isaiah, 18. Ezekiel, 19. Rhoda, 20. The Lord's servant, 21. Hebrew, 22. Darius, 23. 2 Peter

The new date is Saturday, September 9, 2023. Please sign-up as soon as possible so we can get an accurate headcount for this upcoming game! Sign-up sheet is on the table in the lobby!



CHANGE PLANS



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building. |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| *Sanctuary closed, construc- tion work begins | | Independence Day | Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm | Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm | Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm | Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am @ FJUMC |
| Picnic after wor- ship service | | Faith Journey closed, C&B closed | Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, Rock Painting | 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build- | | Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-2pm |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | | | Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, Yard Games | | | SPPRC Meeting, 1pm |
| | | | 9:30 AM - Prayer & | 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building | | 9AM - 12PM - Workday |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| | | | Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, Flo- ral Arrangements | Ministries Council Meeting, 6:30pm | | |
| | | | 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in | | | 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| | | | Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm, Flip Flop Garden Deco- | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | ration | | | |
| | | | 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office | 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building. | | |
| 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





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.

od With Others



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