

The Stepping Stone September 2023



"It's a good, good season"

⁸ Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him. ⁹ Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness. Psalm 34:8-9 (The Message Translation)

There is much to be said for living in Central New York. It is the only place I am sure that we are guaranteed four seasons. As for right now it is the middle of summer. Through the mass amounts of rain that we have had with this summer—the sunshine and

warmth have done wonders for my soul. It's a good, good season.

The Christian and the Church goes through seasons of change and upheaval. There is no escaping it. As long as we are sinful human beings, we will always be called closer to God for God's intervention. II have to admit that I was somewhat melancholy at the Upper New York Annual Conference session. I think it was the portion of the conference where we approved congregations leaving the denomination. I felt sad, hurt, anger and frustration. I felt no joy in those votes. It felt like defeat. It was as if we lost something that wasn't ours to begin with.

The Church is God's idea, not ours. We are God's instruments that guide and lead the church, but in the end it's all about people. As Christians and the Church, we make a lot of decisions based on fear. We look at a decline in membership, checkbooks that are shrinking, and theological infighting. We look at the worst of people and hold them in contempt as if we were judge, jury, and executioner. We go off in our own direction as ask God to bless our paths as if we have won the battle.

I am not interested in fighting a theological war of words and actions that cannot underpinned with love. In the words of a disabled boy, Hank, "Love Wins." It has to win and triumph over all that is not holy or wholly God.

I long for an end to the brokenness, strife, and pain. I long for a renewed sense of call and purpose to blow through the doors of the United Methodist Church. I long for people to come together as brothers and sisters in Jesus first before they identify as United Methodist or Global Methodist. I long for relationships to be mended and molded in the *imago-dei* that God might be glorified in action, word, and deed.

Whatever side of the great divorce you fall on—know this: God loves you with all that God has and God will continue to pour out God's grace like the rain this summer and the warmth of the sun. It's a good, good, season.

This life—this time is not about our rights for justice. It's about God calling us to be humble and holy. As God told Moses, "Take off your sandals for you are standing on holy ground."

The great Hymn of the faith reminds us:

"The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his consummation through water and the world. From heaven he came and sought to be his holy bride and for her love he bought and for that life he died."

It's not about you, it's not about me. It's all about God and what God is doing in this thing called the CHURCH of Jesus Christ. Drop the rock, love those you despise, and offer grace when it is not offered to you. Show Jesus in all that you do and speak.

That's the only thing that matters right now is humility and holiness and I pray that in this good, good, season we might see the glory of God and the resurrected Jesus.



Interested in reading my weekly articles and sermons? They are now available on my website, **www.caesarsofhistorytremble.com**

It is my hope that my writings, sermons, and other musings will be of help to you on your spiritual journey. Feel free to contact me with questions or fun ideas for faith.

In Christ,

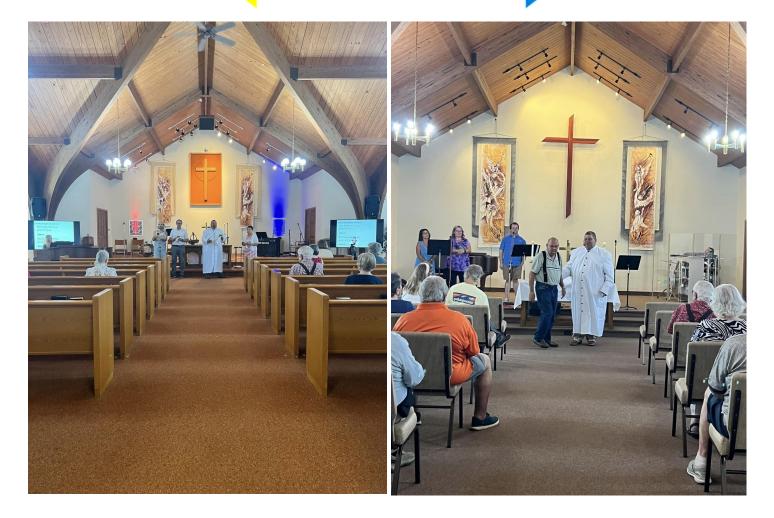
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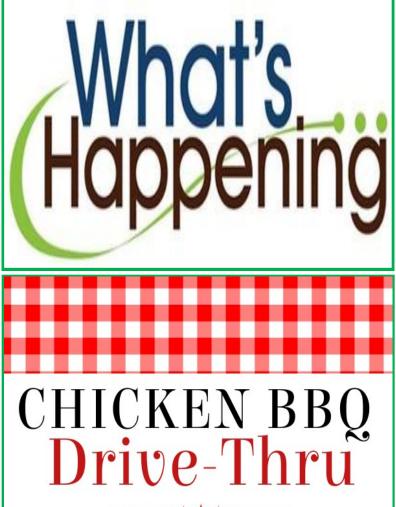
Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

THE NEW FAITH JOURNEY SANCTUARY IS COMPLETE!

Thank you to all those who made this beautiful rehab come to fruition.. it has taken many hours of planning and orchestrating carpet installers, piano movers and chair delivery over the past year. In the past two months Mike Jordan, Butch Remington, Duane Simmons and Terry Bryant have worked endless hours - you all have gone up and beyond with planning and working hard for this happen.. Minnie Jordan, Sandra Remington, Brian Doolittle Jr., Linda Raulli, Bill and Cindi Clement, Sean and Greg Townsend, Mary Bradley and Daniel Bradley, Tom Porter, Marcia and Dave Zogg, Ron Deon Howington, Dave Buttolph, Marie E. Sturge, and Sue DeMarco - Thank you for assisting whenever you were available! Phase one is complete.. Phase two is in the planning.. we feel so blessed to have such a great group at Faith Journey. - Beth Jordan







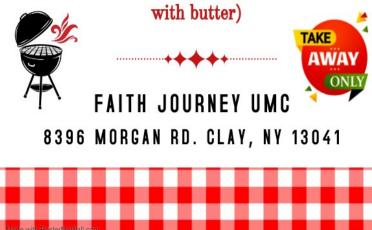
SATURDAY, SEPT. 9TH

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11am- until sold out

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\$7.00 - for chicken only (includes 1/2 chicken)
\$11.00 - for chicken dinner (includes 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans and a roll



September:

September 4th - Labor Day

September 6th - Fall Book Study begins, 4-6pm @ C&B September 9th - Last Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru of the season! 11am-sold out @ FJUMC

September 9th - Faith Journey Syracuse Mets Baseball Game, 6:35pm @ NBT Bank Stadium

September 10th - 9/11 Remembrance Concert with John Harnois

September 11th - Finance Meeting, 6:30 pm September 16th - United Women in Faith Annual Meeting, 9:30am-2pm @ Brewerton UMC

September 23rd - Apple Festival at Sacred Heart Church, 9am-2pm @ 8229 Brewerton Rd. Cicero, NY 13039 September 23rd - Foodie Fest, 11am-8pm @ The Great NYS Fair

September 23rd & 24th - Fill-a-bag Book Sale @ Liverpool Public Library

October 1st - World Communion Sunday October 6th - Memorial Committee Meeting, 10:30 am October 28th - Grandma's Old-Fashioned Roast Beef Dinner, 4-6pm @ FJUMC



9/11 Remembrance Concert

Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m. Featuring John Harnois and guest musicians

It's the 22nd anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, and the painful memories are seared into our minds and hearts as we continue to pray for the families and remember the victims. We hold fast to the hope that springs forth from the ashes even after all this time.

Sadly, we still experience the fear and violence that has permeated our world since 9/11 and as we look back at that tragic day, help us to be people of nonviolence, love and determined to heal wounds rather than inflict them. We pray for those still suffering from loss or injury as a result of the tragic events of that day.

Let us never forget those who risked or lost their lives to save others, for their sacrifices and love represented the best in humanity and the path to which Christ still calls each of us, as we continue to mourn those who died, may we honor them by being loving neighbors to all toward building a lasting peace through Christ Jesus.

God Bless the United States of America. Amen.



Cradle & Beyond 2.0 7778 Brewerton Road

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 7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212





We've had a busy and amazing August that ended with a better-than-ever 6-day bucket sale selling 175 buckets (700 gallons of merchandise) from Thursday to Thursday, we still have one more bucket sale day left.

In addition, we welcomed into our little store, ~105 school-age students (pre-k though college aged), many hadn't been in before and we hope

they bring their families back soon. The students will be heading off to school with brand new backpacks full of school supplies. This was the first time that C&B has done something like this and it was a huge success - thank you for welcoming the students and their families into our store.

In addition to new people, we have received an instrumental amount of donations too. Our stupendous sorters have been working overtime trying to stay ahead of things... good thing it's time to change over merchandise as we get ready for the cooler temperatures. Be ready for some changes starting next week!

C&B will host a book study with Pastor Dan Bradley. This study will take place on Wednesdays, 4:00-6:00 pm September through October. Stop in, grab the book and enjoy some enlightenment and friendly vibes. Pastor Dan also released a new website: <u>Www.Caesarsofhistorytremble.com</u> check it out to see his sermons, his thoughts, images and videos.

The crafty Wednesdays in July went over so well that we will be planning to do Fall Craft Events toward the end of September / early October - stay tuned for more information.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER - "EMBRACING OBSTACLES"

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." - James 1:2-3



September

This is going to be a very busy month for me! I have a wedding to attend, a bridal shower, several important birthdays are this month like my Husbands and Mothers and we have plans to update our bathroom shower! In addition to all of the personal things I have going on, the church is almost done with the sanctuary renovations! The painting is complete, new carpet has been laid, new stadium seating has been delivered and improved lighting has been installed. It's going to be an amazing worship experience surrounded by newness!



Join us as the #SYRFoodTrucks Foodie Fest returns to The Great New York State Fair on Saturday, September 23rd, from 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. !

We're delighted to invite you to this annual culinary extravaganza. The festivities are set to unfold in and around Chevy Court at the NYS Fairgrounds. Prepare your taste buds for a delightful experience as

we showcase up to 45 locally owned food trucks, presenting a diverse array of flavors and cuisines. Alongside the culinary delights, you can explore offerings from over 50 artisan vendors, enjoy live performances by local musicians, enjoy craft beers and Ashley Lynn wine slushees.

Families, we've got you covered! The Face Paint Lady's KidZone offers character meet & greets, free balloon twisting, affordable face painting, sand art, spin art, caricatures, and more. Plus, the Bounce Houses guarantee endless fun!

By purchasing your tickets early, you can take advantage of our fantastic pre-sale price of \$5. Please note that ticket prices will increase to \$10 during the week of the event. What's even better? Children under 12 get free admission, making it an even more family-friendly occasion.

Parking is a breeze, with entrances available at both the main gate and the back corner of Chevy Court. Free parking is available in the brown lot across from the main gate.

BIBLE TRIVIA

A Collection of Traitors

1. What infamous Philistine woman tricked Samson into revealing the secret of his strength?

2. What son of David led a major revolt against his father?

3. When Pekah the usurper reigned in Israel, who murdered him and took over the throne?

4. What fiery chariot driver slew the king of Israel and the king of Judah and later had Jezebel murdered, after which he reigned as king in Israel?

5. Hazael of Syria usurped the throne after he murdered the king, Ben-hadad. What unusual method did he use for the murder?
6. What traitor murdered Elah, king of Israel, and then later, after a seven-day reign, committed suicide?

7. Who murdered Shallum and took his place on the throne of Israel?

8. When Judas appeared in Gethsemane to betray Jesus, he was accompanied by a crowd. What were the people of the crowd carrying?

A Gallery of Prisoners

1. Who was put in prison as a political enemy of the Philistines?

2. What king of Israel was imprisoned for defying Assyrian authority?

3. What kinsmen of Jesus was imprisoned for criticizing King Herod's marriage to Herodias?

4. What famous dreamer was imprisoned after being accused of trying to seduce Potiphar's wife?

5. Whose brothers were imprisoned after being falsely accused of being spies in Egypt?

6. Who was imprisoned for prophesying the destruction of the kingdom of Judah?

7. What king of Judah was blinded and imprisoned because he defied Babylonian authority?

8. Who prophesied doom for King Asa and was put in prison?

9. What king of Judah was sent into exile in Babylon and put in prison, but was later released and treated as a friend of the king of Babylon?

10. Who prophesied doom and defeat for King Ahab and was put in prison for his harsh words?

11. What two apostles were put into prison in Jerusalem for preaching the gospel?

12. Who remained in the prison at Philippi even after an earthquake opened the prison doors?

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



You are invited to join United Women in Faith Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Theme: What Are You Doing? By Ann Owens

*Lunch will be served at a cost of \$8.00 per person
Reservations: Due by Sept. 11th
Call: Beth Magill (315) 668-6640

Brewerton United Methodist Church 5395 Orangeport Rd. Brewerton, NY 13029



Sunday, October 1, 2023

World Communion Sunday service will be extra special this year since we will be worshipping in the newly renovated and remodeled sanctuary with fresh paint, modern seating, brand new carpet, and improved lighting.

Join us on October 1st—World Communion Sunday, at 10 a.m. when we rededicate the sanctuary and rejoice in all that God has done. This is a season of new beginnings and opportunities to "Seek, Serve, and Share God with others."

SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



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 14:14 Day 2 - Psalm 4:8 Day 3 - Psalm 23:1-6 Day 4 - Psalm 34:3 Day 5 - Psalm 46:5 Day 6 - Psalm 145:18 Day 7 - Proverbs 16:24 Day 8 - Isaiah 40:31 Day 9 - Isaiah 41:13 Day 10 - Isaiah 43:1-2 Day 11 - Lament. 3:22-23 Day 12 - Acts 9:26-28, 31 Day 13 - Acts 20:1-3 Day 14 - Romans 8:18 Day 15 - Romans 8:28
- Day 16 Romans 8:37-39
 Day 17 Romans 15:4-6
 Day 18 Romans 15:13
 Day 19 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
 Day 20 Galatians 6:2
 Day 21 Galatians 6:9
 Day 22 Ephesians 3:20-21
 Day 23 Philippians 1:3-6
 Day 24 Philippians 2:1-4
 Day 25 1 Thess. 5:11
 Day 26 2 Thess. 2:15-17
 Day 28 Hebrews 6:19-20
 Day 29 Hebrews 12:4-6
 Day 30 Hebrews 13:8

<u>What are Scripture</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: Encouragement







Honey Cinnamon Cookies

"These honey cinnamon cookies are a delicious treat and they will be great addition to a rich cup of coffee or a nice cup of tea. Enjoy!"



Recipe by: Baking Queen, All Recipes

NGREDIENTS

DIRECTIONS

- FOR THE FRUIT TOPPING
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 baking soda
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1 large egg

TOPPING (Optional)

- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- 1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.
- **2.** Line baking sheets with nonstick mats or parchment paper.

3. Mix flour, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, and baking soda together thoroughly. Beat in butter, honey, and egg using an electric mixer until batter is sticky and combined. Roll batter into 20 to 24 balls.

4. Mix white sugar and cinnamon together in a shallow bowl for the topping. Roll balls in the mixture and place onto the prepared baking sheets.

5. Bake in the preheated oven until edges are golden, about 11 minutes. Place cookies on a cooling rack for about 2 minutes.

*Recipe Note: Dough is extremely sticky and hard to form into balls, add about a 1/2 cup more flour to help roll the dough into ball shape. They don't need to be perfectly round!

Prep Time: 15 mins Cook Time: 15 mins Total Time: 30 mins Servings: 24 **Community Events**



Saturday, September 23, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us for our first Apple Festival at Sacred Heart Church. There will be craft vendors, good food for sale, lots of entertainment for the whole family including pony rides, petting zoo, bubble man, inflatable maze, magic show, corn hole, basketball, many great raffles available and so much more!



Sacred Heart Church 8229 Brewerton Rd. Cicero, NY 13039



ARE YOU A BOOK LOVER? CHECK OUT THE FILL-A-BAG BOOK SALE!

\$5 per bag or 5 bags for \$20

Saturday, September 23rd 9 AM to 3 PM & Sunday, September 24th 11 AM to 3 PM

*Located in the Carman Community Room at LPL

> Liverpool Public Library 310 Tulip Street Liverpool, NY 13088

<u>Bible Trivia Answers</u>: **1.** Delilah, **2.** Absalom, **3.** Hoshea, **4.** Jehu, **5.** He took a thick cloth, dipped it in water, and smothered the king, **6.** Zimri, **7.** Menahem, **8.** Swords and clubs

1. Samson, 2. Hoshea, 3. John the Baptist, 4. Joseph, 5. Joseph's, 6. Jeremiah, 7. Zedekiah, 8. Hanani, 9. Jehoiachin, 10. Micaiah, 11. Peter and John, 12. Paul and Silas

SEPTEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Labor Day		Fall Book Study, 4- 6pm @ C&B			Chicken BBQ Drive- Thru, 11am
			9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build- ing		Syracuse Mets Base- ball Game, 6:35pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9/11 Remem- brance Concert, 10am	Finance Meeting, 6:30 pm		9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building		United Women in Faith Annual Meet- ing, 9:30pm-2pm @ Brewerton UMC
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
						Apple Festival, 9am- 2pm @ Sacred Heart Church
			9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building		Foodie Fest, 11am- 8pm @ NYS Fair- grounds
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Fill-a-bag book sale @ Liverpool Public Library,						
9/23 (9am-3pm)						
9/24 (11am-3pm)			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.

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