



Pastor's **Page**



The Stepping Stone

MARCH 2024



The Ugly Truth

“And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’ Now therefore hear the word of the Lord.

“You say, ‘Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.’

Therefore thus says the Lord: “Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.”

The Ugly truth about Christianity is this: there is no finish line. No Hail Mary pass at the last second. It is a life lived in Christ that makes all the difference.

I love football and have watched the Buffalo Bills all my life. I have wept with wide right and wide left. I have cheered until my voice hurt and yet all their franchise history they have failed to bring back a Lombardi Trophy. They’re still my team and suffering goes along with victory. My favorite part of the game is the touch down dances. The players and fans are exuberant and it seems as if a bomb of joy has gone off in the stadium. That’s how it is with life. We win some and lose some, but there is always joy when we make a touchdown.

Christianity has developed in a counter culture which focuses on self and selfish principles that push people down and create structures that are unholy. It seems as if there is an awakening in the culture where pockets of hope are rising up over the oppressive structures that have hurt, enslaved, murdered people in the name of God. We still have a long way to go. This is just the beginning of a revolution which I believe will transform the Church of Jesus Christ in the years to come.

Amos is referred to as the “anti-prophet” Amos was a farmer of sycamore fig trees. He had no formal training to be a prophet. He simply had a word from the Lord to an evil and corrupt Priest of Bethel Amaziah.

Amos with the authority of God spoke prophecies called the corrupt leadership of Israel to task. This was no easy doing. It’s like shaking hands with a great white shark and being only a minnow. Amos doesn’t strut—he simply speaks what he knows to be true.

These are the things that I know about God that are true. They come from the Book of Discipline ¶102 Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task: Basic Christian Heritage--

“The created order is designed for the well-being of all creatures and as the place of human dwelling in covenant with God. As sinful creatures, however, we have broken that covenant, become estranged from God, wounded ourselves and one another, and wreaked havoc throughout the natural order. We stand in need of redemption. We hold in common with all Christians a faith in the mystery of salvation in and through Jesus Christ.”

This belief is one of the reasons I am and always will be a part of the United Methodist Church. It is the central bulwark that can never be moved. We are a part of this created world and are in need of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Anything less is rubbish.

Every August when pre-season Football starts my heart gets full of excitement for a good year of Bills football. I cheer, shout, and hope my team wins. I have learned the phrase that I have taught to my daughter, “There is always next year.” Year after year I never give up on my Bills. In every win there is a loss and every loss there is a win. The point of all of this that we keep going. Another day another chance to throw the ball and dance in the endzone. I thank God that God doesn’t take football as serious as I do.

There is much to do in this world. Isn’t it time we started speaking truth to power. Isn’t it time we start lifting up the oppressed. This is our mission: to be a voice for the voiceless, a light in the dark, a port in the storm for all who are in need in this world. Be an Amos today speak to power and corruption. Speak the truth of God’s grace and mercy. Even if it’s ugly.



NEW CHURCH LITE SERVICE

Faith Journey is embarking on a new adventure! Church Lite will begin on the first Sunday in April. It will be a time for prayer, scripture, discussion and sharing led 100 percent by laity. **All are welcome to join us 8:30 to 9:00 on Sunday, April 7th for our first Church Lite Service!**

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Daniel J. Bradley".

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

What's Happening

March:

March 9th—Pancake Breakfast, 9am @ FJUMC
March 10th—UMCOR Sunday
March 11th—Ministries Council Meeting, 6:30pm
March 15th & 16th—GNAC Buggy Malone Jr., 7pm
March 17th—St. Patrick's Day
March 22nd & 23rd—GNAC Buggy Malone Jr., 7pm
March 23rd—30th—Spring SpEGGtacular Sale @ C&B 2.0
March 24th—Palm Sunday
March 24th—GNAC Buggy Malone Jr., 2pm
March 28th—Holy Thursday Service, 7pm
March 29th—Good Friday Service, 7pm
March 31st—Easter Sunday, Sunrise Service @ 6:30am with Pancake Breakfast to follow, and traditional service @ 10:30 am

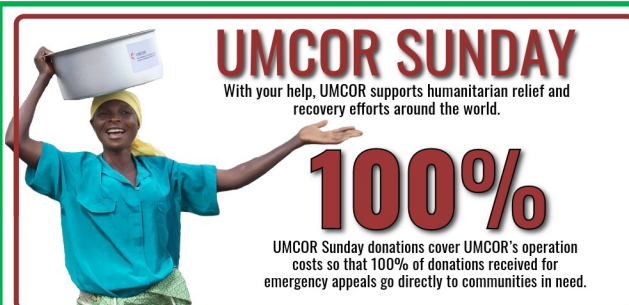
HOLY WEEK EVENTS

MAR 24 **PALM SUNDAY**
 ONSITE/ONLINE | 10:30 AM

MAR 28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
 ONSITE/ONLINE | 7:00 PM

MAR 29 **GOOD FRIDAY**
 ONSITE/ONLINE | 7:00 PM

MAR 31 **EASTER SUNDAY**
 SUNRISE SERVICE - 6:30 AM with Pancake Breakfast to follow
 TRADITIONAL SERVICE - 10:30 AM



UMCOR SUNDAY
 With your help, UMCOR supports humanitarian relief and recovery efforts around the world.

100%

UMCOR Sunday donations cover UMCOR's operation costs so that 100% of donations received for emergency appeals go directly to communities in need.

WHAT IS UMCOR SUNDAY?

This Special Sunday, held on **March 10, 2024** is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for the ministry of The United Methodist Committee on Relief – otherwise known as UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable.

UMCOR, provides hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by war, storms or other crises. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. Last year, your generosity delivered **\$1.7 million** towards these ministries:

- **International Disaster Response** efforts provide assistance following natural or human-caused disasters outside of the United States.
- **U.S. Disaster Response** works with annual conferences in the United States to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories.
- **Global Migration** provides relief and recovery in the form of food aid, basic necessities, and legal and transportation services for vulnerable migrants and refugees.
- **Relief Supplies** UMCOR Sager Brown Depot and affiliate warehouses within the UM Relief Supply Network collect relief supplies that are assembled by United Methodist volunteers for distribution in the United States and its territories in response to disasters.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE, BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP BEFORE CHURCH, STARTING AT 9:30!



Join us on Sunday Mornings 9:30-10:15am during the Lenten Season (Feb 18th—March 24th) for a delicious Pancake Breakfast before worship service!

Or join us for our next Pancake Breakfast held on Saturday, March 9th at 9am!

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



Cradle & Beyond 2.0

7778 Brewerton Road

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
7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212

HAPPY MARCH! What a Fun February we had! In addition to meeting so many new people, having great weather and a super successful Spin-the-wheel Sale. Unfortunately, Leap Day 2024 brought about a huge snow storm in which the C&B store had to close for the day.



We had the opportunity to provide volunteer hours for a CNS student working toward applying for honor society and while here she had so much fun and loved everyone. Cradle & Beyond and FJUMC donated supplies that were brought to the Inaugural Oswego County Baby Shower on 2/28/24. We created the cutest bags filled with clothes, diapers, shoes, books, stuffed animals, etc. In addition, we were able to give away formula, pediasure and provided three items for raffles. Sandy and Judy represented CB and FJUMC and got to share all the amazing things we do. We will be invited back next year and can't wait.

A few changes you'll see when you arrive at the store, we have reorganized things and the response from customers is, it looks great! We have purchased pricing guns - the sorters will be working to label clothes using them - stay tuned to how things go.



The C&B Committee met and voted to begin building a new Donation Center. It's no secret that we are busy, busy, busy - because of this - we can use more retail space and a larger Donation Center. Be on the lookout for the plans and construction to begin soon.

This month's **Spring Speggtacular sale** will be held **Saturday 3/23 - Saturday 3/30** and will, as you can imagine, have to do with 'Easter Eggs'. This same sale went over with great success last year, so we're bringing it back. *Keep being awesome!!!*



PSC's Circle of Friends

A free, fun, safe, & casual environment for people of all abilities to meet & socialize with friends



PSC'S Circle of friends will be at FJUMC in the Café Area on Mondays from 10-2.. look at the crowd they had today! It's such an amazing thing that we can provide this space for them to gather, engage in activities and socialize!

Friends
MAKE THE
GOOD TIMES
Better





SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - MARCH - "SOMETHING TO OFFER"

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17



March

HAPPY SPRING! We've had a mild winter, so I'm sure it will be seasonably warm and summer-like in CNY again! March is always a busy and fun month for me since it's my Birthday month! My birthday (March 23rd) falls on a Saturday this year, so I'm thinking of doing something exciting, maybe go out somewhere special or take a little trip since it's during the weekend! Also, March is Pastor Bradley's birthday month as well, so make sure to wish him a Happy Birthday on March 26th!



PRAYERS FOR THE NEW MONTH

Grateful for the Lord's Creations



Mighty Ever-loving Father,

Even before the day begins, I am thinking of You and Your Wondrous Love. In some ways, I am a slow learner. Your patience never ceases to amaze me. The gift of love, giving me the joy of Your Presence is assuring. Light will soon dawn on another day. Seeing the beauty of Your sunrise will be an inspiration. The sunsets, with all the pinks and reds blending with the blue of the sky is awesome. All Your creation is a sight to behold. The towering mountains, the ocean waves, the rain forests, the mighty waterfalls all attest to Your creative works. This country is blessed with many of these sights seen by travelers. Often vacation time is used to explore, to climb and see the wonders formed by You. One early morning, on the way to visiting schools, gigantic angel wings appeared in the sky. They were formed by the clouds. I had to pull off to the side of the road to witness this unbelievable sight. I said to myself, "It is going to be a good day and it was." I will never forget that sight. Sorry Loving Father, I was sidetracked. I was thinking about Your patience when the morning dawn aroused my thoughts to the artistry unfolding before me. Remembering Your patience, even now with my rambling on, demonstrates "IT" never ends. For this, I give You thanks and praise. AMEN.

BIBLE TRIVIA

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus

1. At Christ's crucifixion, what did the soldiers place on his head?
2. For what of Christ's did the soldiers cast lots?
3. For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Christ?
4. How did Judas betray Christ?
5. Christ was led away to which high priest first?
6. What was inscribed above the cross?
7. When Jesus died, for how long was there darkness over the land?
8. What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial?
9. Who of these was first on the scene after resurrection of Christ?
10. Pilate offered to release one prisoner—which prisoner did the Jews request to be released?
11. What was the colour of the robe placed on Jesus?
12. After Pilate found no guilt in Christ, for what reason did the Jews say that Jesus should die?
13. With what was Jesus' side pierced?
14. In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried?
15. Which disciple wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe?
16. Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection beside which sea?
17. Who did Pilate send Jesus to after he had interrogated him?
18. Who carried the cross for Christ?
19. Who rolled away the tomb stone?
20. For how long did Jesus remain after his resurrection before he ascended into heaven?

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



*Great Northern Artists Collaborative
Presents*

Bugsy Malone Jr.!

Directed by Trevor Hill

Friday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 24th at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are available for purchase at
[Ticketor.com/GNAC](https://www.ticketor.com/GNAC)

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

Grandma's Old-Fashioned Roast Beef Dinner Drive-Thru

Saturday, April 27, 2024

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.



\$7.00—Children's Dinner

(includes a half-portion of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, roll with butter, and homemade pie or cake)

\$14.00—Adult Dinner

(includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, roll with butter, and homemade pie or cake)

Faith Journey UMC
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041

MARCH SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



March

The Peace of God



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 Peter 3:9-11

Day 2 - Proverbs 16:7

Day 3 - Isaiah 26:3

Day 4 - 1 Peter 5:6-7

Day 5 - Romans 12:18

Day 6 - John 16:33

Day 7 - Romans 15:13

Day 8 - Hebrews 12:14

Day 9 - Psalm 4:8

Day 10 - Isaiah 12:2

Day 11 - 1 Corinthians 14:33

Day 12 - Philippians 4:4-7

Day 13 - Colossians 3:15

Day 14 - Galatians 5:22-23

Day 15 - Romans 8:6

Day 16 - Philippians 4:8-9

Day 17 - Psalm 119:165

Day 18 - Isaiah 54:10

Day 19 - Romans 5:1

Day 20 - James 3:17-18

Day 21 - Romans 14:17

Day 22 - Isaiah 32:17

Day 23 - Matthew 6:31-33

Day 24 - Psalm 29:10-11

Day 25 - Isaiah 41:10

Day 26 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Day 27 - Isaiah 53:5

Day 28 - Proverbs 3:21-24

Day 29 - Isaiah 9:6

Day 30 - Matthew 5:9

Day 31—2 Thessalonians 3:16

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.





Peanut Butter-Coconut Cookies

"Gluten-free, delicious and easy to bake, these Peanut Butter-Coconut Cookies come together so fast that you can have a batch on the counter in less than half an hour!"

Recipe by: Southern Living

<https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/peanut-butter-coconut-cookies>



NATIONAL
PEANUT BUTTER
LOVER'S DAY

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2/3 cup shredded unsweetened coconut
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon coconut extract
- Raw sugar for sprinkling

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
3. In a bowl, mix together peanut butter, brown sugar, coconut, and egg until well combined.
4. Add extracts and stir to incorporate.
5. Scoop dough into 1 1/2 tablespoon balls and transfer them to the baking sheet, pressing down on them with the tines of a fork, creating a crosshatch pattern on the surface of the cookie, flattening the cookie slightly.
6. Sprinkle each cookie with raw sugar.
7. Bake until the edges just begin to brown, about 10 minutes.
8. Allow to cool completely before serving.

What You'll Love About These Peanut Butter-Coconut Cookies:

These cookies are not chewy in the same way a traditional peanut butter cookie is chewy, the chewiness comes from the texture of brown sugar baked into peanut butter. Because the base of this cookie is made from those two ingredients (and contains no flour), it is free of gluten and easy to make. Shredded unsweetened coconut is also added to the mixture to give additional texture and flavor to each cookie.

Once baked, these confections are soft and crumbly with a crisp exterior. Raw sugar is sprinkled on top of each cookie to give it added crunch and sweetness, and vanilla extract is mixed in to offer a taste of the traditional peanut butter cookie you grew up with!

The last ingredient is the secret of this recipe—coconut extract. A little goes a long way, so only a few drops are necessary to emphasize the flavor of the shredded coconut in the cookie.

Prep Time: 10 mins. / Total Time: 20 mins. / Yields: 1 dozen cookies

RECIPE





Dear Faith Journey,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$100.00. Your contribution and commitment to the Samaritan Center and our guests is essential to the work that happens here.

With your support, the Samaritan Center is able to serve 10,000 meals each month. About 1,000 guests receive basic hygiene items each month. 100 children receive diapers and five guests are able to receive My Place boxes to help them started in a new home.

Beyond the numbers, the Samaritan Center's impact lies in the personal experience each guest has within these walls. Recently, we helped one of our guests, Pat with some paperwork in order to maintain his benefits. He confided in us that he doesn't always have the confidence to do these tasks on his own. Pat expressed his appreciation by saying, "You've changed my life—from help with housing to referrals, the meals and the friendship. I am blessed by the Samaritan Center!"

With your generosity, Pat—and so many other guests—have found a community that cares for them. The Samaritan center is a place to share a meal, a cup of coffee, and to find a listening ear. A place that can help in a time of crisis, or a place that someone can rely on for the everyday challenges that feel overwhelming. The Samaritan Center is a place where all of this is possible—because of you.

May the kindness you have shown others return to you always!

Thank you!! With gratitude, Mary Beth Frey

40 BAGS
in
40 DAYS
Decluttering Challenge



Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, why not try the 40 days—40 items challenge?

Each day of Lent, remove one item from your house, which you don't use, need or wear anymore and place it in a bag. At the end of Lent, donate these items to C&B so they'll be shared with those who really need or want them!

Cradle & Beyond 2.0

7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212

Bible Trivia Answers: 1. Crown of Thorns, 2. Clothes, 3. 30, 4. With a kiss, 5. Annas, 6. King of the Jews, 7. 3 hours, 8. Joseph, 9. Mary Magdalene, 10. Barabbas, 11. Purple, 12. He had made himself the Son of God, 13. Spear, 14. Linen clothes, 15. Thomas, 16. Sea of Tiberias, 17. Herod, 18. Simon of Cyrene, 19. An Angel, 20. 40 days.

MARCH 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
3	4 <i>Circle of Friends, 10am-2pm</i>	5	6 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	7 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build- ing	8	9 <i>Pancake Break- fast @ FJUMC, 9am</i> 9AM - 12 PM - Workday
10 SPECIAL SUNDAY: UMCOR	11 <i>Ministries Council meet- ing, 6:30pm</i>	12	13 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	14 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	15 <i>GNAC Buggy Malone Jr., 7PM</i>	16 <i>GNAC Buggy Malone Jr. 7PM</i>
17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19 <i>First Day of Spring</i>	20 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	21 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	22 <i>GNAC Buggy Malone Jr. 7PM</i>	23 <i>GNAC Buggy Malone Jr. 7PM</i> <i>Spring Sale @ C&B, 10am-2pm</i> 9AM - 12PM - Workday
24 <i>PALM SUNDAY GNAC Buggy Malone Jr. 2PM</i>	25	26 <i>Spring Sale @ C&B, 4pm-7pm</i>	27 <i>Spring Sale @ C&B, 10am- 4pm</i> 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	28 <i>Holy Thursday Service, 7PM</i> <i>Spring Sale @ C&B, 10am- 4pm</i> 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.	29 <i>Good Friday Service, 7PM</i>	30 <i>Spring Sale @ C&B 2.0, 10am- 2pm</i> 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
31 <i>Easter Service, 6:30 am & 10:30 am</i>						



We are still deciding what to collect for the month of **MARCH**, stay tuned for further information on our food pantry collection.



LIFE HOUSE
RESET. RESTORE. REBUILD. RELAUNCH.



We are still collecting gift cards and monetary donations for Life House Ministries during the season of Lent.

We have a goal to collect 100 gift cards from local grocery stores, restaurants and fast food locations to assist those recovering and transitioning out of Human Trafficking.

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