



**Pastor's**  
**Page**



**The Stepping Stone**

**April 2024**

**“Easter Continues . . .”**

*“Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.” John 20:1*

The resurrection is not a one and done deal. It's not enough to come to church once a year and go home to a big ham dinner thinking you have done your duty. The resurrection continues in our lives when we commit to something larger than ourselves.

When I was confirmed in the United Methodist Church in 1987, I was instructed that “change happens when you engage the world.” The Church of Jesus Christ offers us the opportunity to engage the world on God's terms of grace, mercy, and compassion. Getting involved in the mission and ministry of the Church is everyone's call to discipleship. It's not enough to see the stone rolled away and the folded grave cloths. You have to do something with that information.

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples and told them what she had seen. They came running to the tomb to see for themselves. Some believed that Jesus had risen from the dead? Some wondered and questioned. Mary Magdalene did her job. She told the events as she had experienced.

Following the disciples leaving the tomb Mary Magdalene stood weeping. It is in her moments of grief that she saw the Lord. Following that event, she ran once again with the message that Jesus had given her. She became the first evangelist.

What have you seen and experienced this Easter? Have you seen mended relationships? Have you experienced the forgiveness of sins? What have you seen that would convince you that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

On Easter Sunday morning about twenty minutes before service, I received a phone call that Freda Bean was being taken to the hospital and was unresponsive.

She passed about 12:30. I was devastated and filled with grief. As I went to the hospital and spent time with her family I realized that I need to praise God in life and in death. Death is not the end but the beginning.

Jesus was crucified, dead, and buried. On the third day he rose from the grave. "Death worked backwards," as C.S. Lewis once remarked. What makes us think that death has the final word? It is my belief that Freda is in the hands of God. She is not suffering but is in eternal glory and I do believe that I will see her again.

There is so much to grieve in this world. I sometimes feel like Mary Magdalene standing at the tomb weeping. Jesus doesn't let me weep for long. Death could not hold him and God's finger prints are all over the stone that was rolled away. Jesus calls to me, "Daniel why are you weeping?" I start to give reasons and Jesus simply says, "Go and tell my story. Go and tell what you have seen."

We experienced an awesome day in worship on Easter. The sanctuary was packed with new and old faces. The table was set to share Holy Communion. Grace was flowing from the Choir and the scriptures. God was present as all of us experienced the resurrection. What have you seen? Will you tell the story of the resurrection? Will you let others know what God has done for you? The ball as they say is in your court. There are many in this world who need to know God loves them. Will you live out your baptismal covenant and share the story. I am counting on you...Jesus is counting on you.

In Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Daniel J. Bradley". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Rev.", "Daniel", and "Bradley" being capitalized and prominent.

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

# What's Happening

## April:

**April 7th**—Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC

**April 8th**—Solar Eclipse Viewing @ Andy's Camp

**April 14th**—Native American Ministries Sunday

**April 27th**—Grandma's Roast Beef Dinner Drive-Thru & Limited Dine-in, 4-6pm @ FJUMC

### Solar Eclipse Viewing @ Andy's Camp

The Markel family (caretakers at Andy's Camp) are hosting an eclipse viewing event on **Monday 4/8**. Andy's Camp at 400 Lehigh Rd Pulaski is in the direct path to view the totality of the eclipse.. Bring your glasses and a lawn chair, There is plenty of parking too

Eclipse viewing glasses can be picked up at grocery stores, Lowe's, Staples, Walmart, Kinney Drugs (for small fee), public libraries may have some leftover for no cost. FJUMC will have some available on Sunday morning (people are invited to bring any extras they have to church on Sunday).

## Grandma's Old-Fashioned Roast Beef Dinner

Saturday, April 27, 2024  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### ADULT DINNER

Includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, roll with butter, and homemade dessert..... **\$14.00**



### CHILDREN'S DINNER KIDS

Includes a half-portion of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, roll with butter, and homemade dessert..... **\$7.00**

*\*Limited Dine-In by Reservation Only*



Call 315.263.1014 for Dine-In Reservations

Faith Journey United Methodist Church

8396 Morgan Rd.  
Clay, NY 13041

Email: [fjoffice@fjumc.org](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)



## CHURCH LITE

All are welcome to join us 8:30 to 9:00 on Sunday, April 7th for our first Church Lite Service!

Faith Journey is embarking on a new adventure! Church Lite is gathering of people for the sole purpose of connecting through fellowship, faith, and scripture. This is not a worship service, but an opportunity to come together in spirit of hope and love that all who participate will lift one another up. It will be a time for prayer, scripture, discussion and sharing led 100 percent by laity.

## REFRESHMENT SIGN-UP

We have made a decision to go back to bringing in light refreshments and light breakfast items at 9:45 am on Sunday mornings.

Please use the sign-up sheets in the narthex and feel free to bring in any food items, store bought or homemade, for the fellowship time before church and/or in between the Church Lite Service and the 10:30 Traditional Worship Service.





# 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](mailto:Cradleandbeyond2@gmail.com)  
7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212



# Thank you

for supporting our store

Spring is here, hopefully. Winter was pretty nice to us in CNY - but like most people, I am ready for seasonably warm weather, flowers and sun. In order to prepare for Spring, we had a blowout of sales in the month of March. Given the 12 days we had sales in addition to bad weather in March, we still finished \$158 more than our March monthly total for 2023 and greater than \$2000. ahead of our 2023 sales to date. Keep up the great work!



With the move from March to April, we took the time to thin out the winter clothing - 12 banana boxes are being delivered to Catholic Charities in Fulton - they will use the merchandise in their store and save the coats for a clothing giveaway they do in November. We are so blessed to be able to spread our wings and help organizations in the north country :) )

Our sorters will be unpacking spring clothing and putting it out for sale.

With the weather finally shifting, we hope to begin the construction of a new donation center. The CB board met and approved the planning of the project - now we have some red tape to go through but hopefully you'll begin to see some 'breaking ground' soon.

As we had a sale-marathon in March - we will plan for our next sale to be in mid-May, stay tuned for future sale updates. We look forward to welcoming back those volunteers who leave during the winter months, they should be returning in May!

***Thank you for all you do. Keep doing amazing things!***





**SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - APRIL - "BEAUTIFUL TRANSFORMATION"**

*"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." - Psalm 119:105*



**April**

I can't say thank you enough for all of the calls, messages, texts, cards and well wishes I received for my birthday in March! I feel so blessed to be surrounded by so much love, kindness and appreciation. It did snow on my birthday, so I wasn't able to venture out like I planned too, but it was a lovely day nonetheless! I hope you all have a wonderful month, let's pray for beautiful weather—but as the saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers!" So, I won't be surprised by a windy month full of rain! Get your rain boots out and umbrella ready for April!

**Native American Ministries Sunday**

Sunday, April 14, 2024

This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world. Envelopes will be distributed on Sunday, April 14th and can be mailed right away with no cost to you.

UNITED METHODIST  
**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY**

**CELEBRATE**  
 We celebrate to recognize and support Native Americans and their contributions to society and The United Methodist Church.

50%	REMAINS IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
25%	FUNDS GRANTS FOR OUTREACH AND MINISTRY
25%	FUNDS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SEMINARY EDUCATION

**SUPPORT** Donations support scholarships, leadership development and other vital ministries.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church**

# BIBLE TRIVIA

## *There's a Time and a Season for Everything*

1. What book of the Bible contains the best-known passage about times and seasons?
2. Psalm 84:5-7 talks about pilgrims passing through the "Valley of Baca." Which season's rains bring pools to this valley?
3. According to Leviticus 26:1-6, what was the criteria that God set forth for His people to be able to enjoy increased harvests with plenty to eat and peace in their land, along with the removal of evil beasts and enemies of His people?
4. In the 24th chapter of Matthew, Jesus talks about the tribulation that is to come followed by His second coming. In speaking about the tribulation, Jesus, in verse 20, says people should pray their flight is not on the Sabbath or during a particular season. What is the season?
5. In the New International Version, which season does the second chapter of the Song of Solomon say is past?
6. Acts Chapter 27 recounts a ill-fated sea voyage carrying the apostle Paul to Rome along the coast of Asia. This voyage started, perhaps, in late summer, but became so treacherous they considered wintering in the harbor of what island?
7. There is a time and a season for everything. No one knew that more than the author of Ecclesiastes. In 3:1-8 (NIV) he listed various things in life in pairs. Can you find one of his pairs in this list? (*Search, die*) (*Be born, laugh*) (*Scatter, gather*) (*War, mend*)
8. After all the Old Testament teachings concerning the observation of the Sabbath, the year of Jubilee, the three times per year that Jewish males were required to make pilgrimage to Jerusalem and many other occasions of worship, can you tell me WHY the apostle Paul spoke out AGAINST such observations, in Galatians, chapter 4?
9. The book of Zechariah predicts the coming of the Messiah more than any other Old Testament book with the exception of Isaiah. Near the end of Zechariah, he predicts waters flowing out of Jerusalem both in summer and winter. What kind of waters are they?
10. After the Israelites entered the promised land they went through a time when they were ruled by judges. Who was the last judge recorded in Judges 16 of the NIV?

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

## *Don't want to miss out on the historic Solar Eclipse?*

Check out all the local areas holding Solar Eclipse viewing parties so you don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event, the next total eclipse in New York State will not take place until 2079!

**MOST**  
...discover, learn & play!

**Location:** The Most Museum (East Lawn)  
**Address:** 500 S. Franklin St. Syracuse, NY 13202

**Date/Time:** April 8, 2024—12:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
**Information:** Free glasses while supplies last, food trucks, outdoor restrooms and tabling activities from MOST, OCM BOCES, TACNY and Maker Faire Syracuse.

**SYRACUSE  
INNER HARBOR**

**Location:** The Syracuse Inner Harbor  
**Address:** 320 W Kirkpatrick St. Syracuse, NY 13204  
**Date/Time:** April 8,

2024—11:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
**Information:** An array of food trucks, refreshing drinks, lively music, and complimentary glasses sponsored by Destiny USA and 92.1 The Wolf.

**ONONDAGA  
LAKE PARK**  
*The Central Park of CNY!*

**Location:** Onondaga Lake Park  
**Address:** 6790 Onondaga Lake Trail, Liverpool, NY 13088  
**Date/Time:** April 8,

2024—2:00 PM—4:00 PM  
**Information:** Meet on the green area northwest of the Salt Museum, wheelchair accessible bathrooms at the Visitors Center, BYOC (bring your own chair). You can also watch NASA's live-streaming coverage in the Sargent Meeting Room beginning at 2 PM.

**Beaver  
Lake**  
NATURE CENTER

**Location:** Beaver Lake Nature Center  
**Address:** 8477 E. Mud Lake Rd. Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
**Date/Time:** April 8,

2024—1:30 PM to 4:00 PM  
**Information:** Enjoy family-friendly crafts, games, educational stations, commemorative photo ops, food vendors, and so much more! \$5 per car.

**STAYBRIDGE  
SUITES**  
AN IHG HOTEL

**Location:** Staybridge Suites Syracuse (Liverpool)  
**Address:** 439 Electronics Pkwy, Salina, NY 13088

**Date/Time:** April 8, 2024—9:00 AM—8:00 PM  
**Information:** The hotel is hosting a family-friendly event, offering food trucks, kid's activities, viewing glasses & lots of great parking spots, cost is \$20 per car.

# APRIL SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



April

The Grace 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 - 2 Corin. 12:9-10

Day 2 - Ephesians 1:8-10

Day 3 - Romans 6:11-14

Day 4 - 1 Corin. 15:10

Day 5 - Hebrews 4:14-16

Day 6 - John 1:16-17

Day 7 - Romans 3:22-24

Day 8 - Titus 2:11-14

Day 9 - Colossians 4:2-6

Day 10 - Ephesians 2:4-7

Day 11 - 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Day 12 - Romans 6:1-14

Day 13 - John 1:14

Day 14 - Galatians 2:19-21

Day 15 - Hebrews 12:14-15

Day 16 - Romans 5:1-2

Day 17 - Romans 12:3-8

Day 18 - 2 Corin. 6:1-2

Day 19 - Galatians 5:4-6

Day 20 - Romans 5:20-21

Day 21 - Ephesians 1:3-6

Day 22 - Titus 3:4-7

Day 23 - Ephesians 4:7-8

Day 24 - 2 Corin. 8:7-9

Day 25 - Hebrews 2:9-11

Day 26 - 1 Peter 1:13-16

Day 27 - Colossians 1:3-6

Day 28 - Ephesians 1:7-10

Day 29 - Acts 20:32

Day 30 - 2 Peter 3:18

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.







# RecipeCorner



## Banana Nut Muffins

*“You’re going to love these soft, fluffy, and moist banana nut muffins, topped with brown sugar and chopped nuts. It’s the perfect Breakfast on-the-go or anytime snack!”*

Recipe by: Allison—Celebrating Sweets

<https://www.celebratingsweets.com/recipes/banana-nut-muffins/>



## INGREDIENTS

### MUFFINS

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, *melted and cooled slightly*
- 2/3 cup light brown sugar, *lightly packed, make sure it is fresh and soft*
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups mashed, very ripe bananas, *about 3 to 4 bananas total*
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 3/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon, optional
- 1/2 chopped walnuts, *or swap for macadamia nuts, pecans, or hazelnuts*

### TOPPING

- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons chopped walnuts, *or nuts of your choice*

## DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together the melted butter and 2/3 cup brown sugar until well combined about 1 full minute.
3. Add eggs, mashed banana, and vanilla, whisking until combined.
4. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon.
5. Add dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and use a rubber spatula to lightly stir the batter until almost combined. Add 1/2 cup chopped nuts and stir until no streaks of flour remain, be careful not to over-mix.
6. Grease 15 standard-sized muffin cups and divide the batter evenly among the cups.
7. Sprinkle the top of each cup with brown sugar and chopped walnuts (or nuts of your choice).
8. Bake for 14-17 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Place the pan on a wire rack to cool before serving!

### What You’ll Love About These Banana Nut Muffins:

**Fluffy and moist:** *these muffins get the perfect soft texture from a combination of melted butter and lots of mashed bananas.*

**Quick and easy:** *the muffin batter comes together in minutes, no special equipment needed!*

**Flavorful:** *the perfect combination of bananas, sweet brown sugar, and fragrant vanilla.*

**Packed with bananas:** *two whole cups of mashed bananas!*

**Always met with rave reviews:** *this recipe is a reader favorite and family favorite for breakfast, an easy snack or after dinner dessert with a scoop of vanilla ice cream!*

**Prep Time: 15 mins. / Cook Time: 15 mins. / Total Time: 30 mins. / Servings: 15 / Calories: 231 kcal**

RECIPE







## SIGHT & SOUND THEATER BIBLE STORIES LIVE ON STAGE

**BUS TRIP to Lancaster, PA**

**May 8th to May 11th, 2024**

**The cost is \$810 for double per person**

**\$944 for single person**

**A \$250 deposit is needed ASAP.**

*\*This trip includes transportation and lodging, with three breakfasts, one lunch, three dinners, three shows, a soft pretzel factory store, a toy train museum, a driver gratuity, and much more.*

**Sponsored by:** Cicero United Methodist Church Caring Support Group

For more information, contact Mary Alice Scheel at (315) 699-7181

**Don't miss out on this fantastic trip!**



## GODSPELL

May 10th—May 19th, 2024

Redhouse Arts Center, 400 S. Salina St. Syracuse, NY 13202

Contact Gretel Duffy @ (315) 362-2785 or email info@theredhouse.org

**Friday, May 10th @ 7 PM**

**Saturday, May 11th @ 2PM & 7PM**

**Sunday, May 12th @ 2PM\*\***

**Thursday, May 16th @ 7PM**

**Friday, May 17th @ 7PM**

**Saturday, May 18th @ 2PM & 7PM\*\***

**Sunday, May 19th @ 2PM**

**\*\* ASL available & Talk back following performance**

**Regular Ticket Price: \$45, including processing fee**

**Special group sale opportunity!**

*(Groups of ten or more will receive a 25% discount, ticket price of \$35, including processing fee)*

**Bible Trivia Answers:** 1. Ecclesiastes, 2. Autumn, 3. They could have no other gods and had to do what God commanded, 4. Winter, 5. Winter, 6. Crete, 7. Scatter, gather, 8. He believed that they were antiquated and no longer useful; he thought that they had nothing to do with God's grace, and he felt that they could not offer salvation to believers, 9. Living waters, 10. Samson

# APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	4 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.	5	6 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
7 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC	8 Solar Eclipse Viewing @ Andy's Camp	9	10 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	11 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building	12	13 9AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
14 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC Native American Ministries Sunday	15	16	17 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	18 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	19	20 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
21 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC	22	23	24 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in	25 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	26	27 Roast Beef Drive-Thru & Limited Dine-In, 4-6pm 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
28 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC	29	30				



# FoodPantry



For the month of **APRIL**, we will be collecting **shampoo + conditioner, boxes of cereal, and gift cards to BRYNE DAIRY** for Phoenix Food Pantry.

*(Phoenix Food Pantry uses the Bryne Dairy gift cards to purchase large egg cartons for only 99¢)*

**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](mailto:fjoffice@fjumc.org)

**Website:** [www.fjumc.org](http://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