



Pastor's
Page



The Stepping Stone
May 2024

“But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend; you whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” - Isaiah 41:8-10



In the world we live in today it can be very scary to try and make sense of all that is going on. I used the analogy of the world being like a “dumpster fire” this past week in my sermon. The question remains, “How will we put it out.”

When I was a volunteer firefighter the easiest way was to open a hose and fill the dumpster with water. I believe that this is the way that we fight evil and hatred in this world; we fill it with the love of God.

Each of us when we were baptized took on vows to resist evil and oppression in whatever forms that they presented themselves. In some cases our parents took those vows for us as we were baptized as infants until we were able to take those vows for ourselves at the time of our confirmation.

It is very easy to get bogged down in the munitia of life and forget what is important. It’s our relationship with God.

What is it that God is saying to you in this moment? What does your heart tell you?

For the Israelites in exile the message was this: “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

For the past two weeks General Conference has taken place. Much has been discussed and acted upon changing our theology, polity, and practice. Two of the most notable changes are that LGBTQ+ persons will now have the ability to serve in the ranks of the clergy. The other is that Clergy will be permitted to perform same sex weddings. Clergy will also have the right not to perform same sex weddings if it goes against their theological beliefs.

There will be many who will be affirming of these decisions and others who will be grieving and lamenting these changes.

Faith Journey United Methodist Church will continue to be an open and welcoming space. We will continue the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ and “make disciples for Jesus Christ and the transformation of the world.”

We are called and commissioned to love one another as Christ has loved us. We will not stand in judgement or condemnation. All of us have a seat at Christ’s table.

I believe that all persons are worthy of the love of God and in that love it is my prayer that they will know Jesus.

“You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

In Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Daniel J. Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

What's Happening

May:

- May 10th**—GNAC 'Too Much Light' Dessert Theater, 7pm
May 11th—GNAC 'Too Much Light' Dessert Theater, 7pm
May 11th—FIRST Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru of the Season, 11am-til sold out @ *FJUMC*
May 12th—Mother's Day
May 18th—Pancake Breakfast @ *FJUMC*, 9am
May 19th—Pentecost Sunday; Inducting new members & baptism
May 23rd—Memorial Committee Meeting, 10am @ *FJUMC*
May 25th—North Syracuse Family Festival, 11am-5pm @ *Center-ville Place*
May 25th—June 1st—Memorial Day Sale @ *C&B 2.0*
May 26th—Peace with Justice Sunday
May 27th—Memorial Day



It's
BBQ
Time!

CHICKEN BBQ DRIVE-THRU

THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

We begin selling at 11:00 AM till sold out!

May 11, 2024

June 8, 2024

July 13, 2024

August 10, 2024

September 14, 2024

\$7.00—1/2 Chicken and roll

\$11.00—1/2 Chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans and roll

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

TOO MUCH LIGHT MAKES THE BABY GO BLIND



30 PLAYS
IN
60 MINUTES



*Written by Greg Allen and Directed
by Andy Metz
Produced by special arrangement
with Playscripts, Inc.*

Great Northern Artists Collaborative
presents:
A Special Mother's Day Weekend
Dessert Theater

**Friday, May 10th at 7 PM
Saturday, May 11th at 7PM**

**** Dessert included with every
ticket**

**General Admission: \$20 plus fee
Senior/Student: \$15 plus fee**

Ticketor.com/gnac

***Fellowship Hall
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041***

Pancake Breakfast



Join us for a delicious Pancake Breakfast at
Faith Journey UMC on the 3rd Saturday of
every month.

The next date is:
Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9:00 am



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



I have been reflecting on this phrase for a time now. Being in an attitude of gratitude requires intentionality. *An 'attitude of gratitude' is the practice of regularly expressing appreciation for things big and small. Cradle and Beyond practices intentionality and you each share an attitude of gratitude by doing amazing things each and every day.*

I appreciate each and everyone of you. Your passion for C&B, your overwhelming dedication to make relationships with our customers, keep our store clean and organized and tout all the mission work that we do - these traits exemplify an attitude of gratitude.

C&B has a committee that consists of church and community members, seasoned and novice-ish volunteers that each have a pulse on what the community needs. It is heartwarming to receive a text, a call or a conversation of one of you or even a customer sharing new opportunities that CB can be a part of, coming up with a new partner we can reach out to, a new idea of displaying merchandise, a new idea for a promotion / sale and most importantly to share a story from an experience someone had during their shift.



For the month of May, we will celebrate a Memorial Day Sale, Saturday 5/25 - Saturday 6/1. More details will follow. Our snowbirds have returned north - we are excited you are back - in addition, we have a student volunteer, Cici, who will be helping out once a month on a Saturday. It's going to be a great month, continue to make meaningful connections with others and become a beacon of positivity and kindness - our world needs more of this!



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - MAY - "LIKE A BIRD"

"I know every mountain bird; even the insects in the fields are mine." - Psalm 50:11



MAY - Happy Mother's Day

We have a busy month coming up! Pentecost is on May 19, 2024 and we are super excited to welcome 6 new members joining Faith Journey UMC and also have a baptism planned. It will be a worship service packed full of celebration and joy. There's so many wonderful things happening at FJUMC and C&B 2.0, please check out the monthly calendar and join us at Faith Journey and take a little trip to Cradle to see the progress and say HI to our amazing volunteers! I am usually there every Tuesday night and would love to see you! We will be returning to outdoor worship services in June.

SPECIAL
SUNDAY

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY GOD'S PROMISE OF PEACE



The *Peace with Justice Special Sunday*, which is held on **Sunday, May 26, 2024**, is a denomination wide celebration intended to raise awareness that even in a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction, people of faith have a clear call to build peace with justice. As United Methodists, our yearning for peace must move us to act.

The United Methodist Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them.

The United Methodist Church, with its historic commitment to peace and justice, can and should provide leadership to this social transformation. The General Board of Church and Society Church holds a non-governmental, consultative status with the United Nations. This status allows us to participate in UN meetings, consultations and conferences. We recognize and renew our call for social transformation, for the quest to open the doors of opportunity for all, to distribute resources more equitably, and to provide better care for persons in need.

BIBLE TRIVIA

The Day of Pentecost

1. What Christian holiday does the holiday of Pentecost follow?
2. According to the Book of Acts, how many days after Jesus ascended into Heaven did the disciples celebrate Pentecost?
3. While everyone was gathered together in a room celebrating the feast, what sound was heard all around them, as described in Acts?
4. How does the Bible describe what happened to the disciples when the Holy Spirit entered them?
5. Acts describes which one of Jesus' disciples taking the opportunity to stand up and speak to the crowd of people?
6. When Peter was speaking to the crowd, what does the Book of Acts state he said would happen to the old men in the city?
7. In Acts 2:21, what did Peter say would happen to those that call upon the Lord?
8. Who did Peter describe in Acts 2:25 as sitting at the right hand of God?
9. According to Peter in Acts 2, what did God tell David would happen to his enemies?
10. In what city did this first Pentecostal celebration described in Acts take place?
11. The word "Pentecost" comes from what language?
12. What does the word "Pentecost" mean and refer to?
13. What were some other Old Testament names for Pentecost?
14. What Old Testament prophecy did he declare was being fulfilled on this day of Pentecost?
15. How many people believed the disciples' message about Christ and were baptized on this day of Pentecost?
16. What is the traditional liturgical color for Pentecost?
17. Which Shakespeare play mentions Pentecost?
18. What is the day-of-Pentecost-inspired name of a 1970's Christian musical group?
19. Who wrote "Spirit of Faith Come Down," a popular Pentecostal hymn sung in Methodist Churches?
20. What is the name for Pentecost used in Ireland and the UK?

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



LIFE HOUSE
RESET. RESTORE. REBUILD. RELAUNCH.



We want to give a huge **THANK YOU** to all that supported our Lenten mission of collecting gift cards and monetary donations for *Life House Ministries*.

We collected 41 gift cards and \$50 in cash donations! The gift cards totaled more than \$800.

We thank you so much for supporting this very important mission that assists those recovering and transitioning out of Human Trafficking. When we come together in mission, we can make the most impact for our community and those in need.

Confirmation *Class*

As you may know, we currently have two young people in a confirmation class this year, Olivia Osburn and Brielle Bryant.

As part of their learning and growing as Christians and becoming members of the Methodist Church, they need to know that they are valued and unique individuals.

Please take a moment to write each of them a quick note, encouraging them to develop and strengthen their faith and affirming their decision to become a member of the church.

Bless you all for your prayers and support.

MAY 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 - Matthew 11:28-30

Day 2 - Psalm 73:26

Day 3 - John 14:27

Day 4 - Psalm 55:22

Day 5 - 1 Peter 5:7

Day 6 - 2 Corinthians 5:6-7

Day 7 - Psalm 147:3

Day 8 - 1 Peter 5:7

Day 9 - Isaiah 40:31

Day 10 - Luke 10:41-42

Day 11 - Nehemiah 8:10

Day 12 - John 16:33

Day 13 - Psalm 4:8

Day 14 - Exodus 33:14

Day 15 - Psalm 121:1-3

Day 16 - Jeremiah 31:25

Day 17 - Hebrews 12:12-13

Day 18 - Colossians 1:29

Day 19 - Galatians 6:9

Day 20 - Proverbs 3:24

Day 21 - Psalm 46:10

Day 22 - John 16:24

Day 23 - Isaiah 26:3

Day 24 - Hebrews 4:16

Day 25 - Psalm 55:6

Day 26 - Proverbs 23:23-24

Day 27 - Psalm 18:31-32

Day 28 - James 1:12

Day 29 - Revelations 2:3

Day 30 - Hebrews 6:10

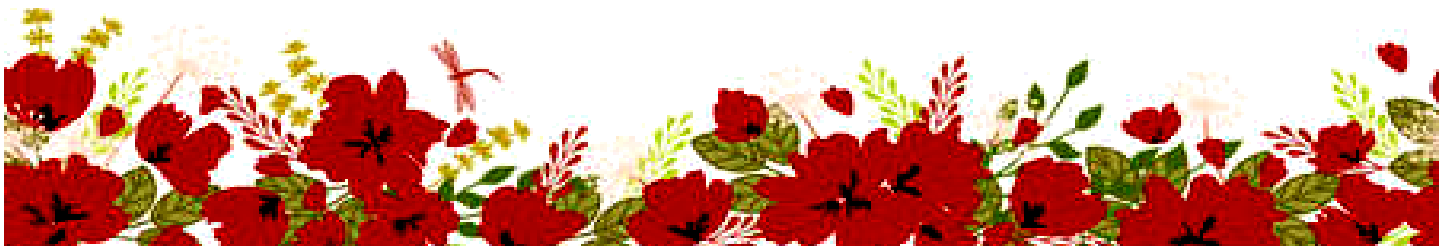
Day 31 - Isaiah 55:11

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 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.





Strawberry Chocolate Chip Muffins

"Soft, moist, easy strawberry muffins that are bursting with juicy berries and chocolate chips! Great for breakfast or snacks!"

Recipe by: *Averie Sunshine*

<https://www.averiecooks.com/strawberry-chocolate-chip-muffins/>

It's National
STRAWBERRY
MONTH



THE BERRY SWEET BERRY

INGREDIENTS

- 8 ounces frozen strawberries
OR 8 ounces of fresh strawberries, *roughly chopped into 1/2-inch pieces (allow to come to room temp for about 10 mins, or until they can be chopped; do not thaw completely)*
- 2 cups + 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, *divided*
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar, *use 1 cup if your berries are tart or if you prefer sweeter muffins*
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- Pinch salt, *optional and to taste*
- 1 large egg
- 2/3 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup canola or vegetable oil
- 2 rounded tablespoons vanilla/plain Greek yogurt or sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup mini semi-sweet chocolate chips, *full size may be used but are more likely to sink*

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400F. Line a non-stick, 12-cup, regular muffin pan with paper liners or spray with floured cooking spray (I prefer the cosmetic look of not using liners, so I didn't). Set the pan aside.
2. Place the strawberries in a medium bowl, add 2 tablespoons flour and toss to coat; set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine 2 cups flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, optional salt, and whisk to combine; set aside.
4. In a medium mixing bowl or glass measuring cup, combine egg, buttermilk, oil, Greek yogurt, vanilla, and whisk to combine.
5. Slowly pour wet mixture over dry ingredients, and stir lightly until just incorporated. Batter will be very thick and lumps will be present; don't overmix. If your batter is ridiculously thick, add a splash of buttermilk to thin it out.
6. Gently fold in the strawberries and fold in the chocolate chips.
7. Using a medium cookie scoop, fill each of cavity of the prepared muffin pan to about 3/4 full. Don't be afraid to fill them quite full because this is how you'll get domed-shaped, tall muffins.
8. Bake for about 20 minutes, or until tops are domed, puffed, and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, or with a few moist crumbs dangling but no batter. Because the moisture content in strawberries varies, as do pan sizes, climates, and ovens, bake until done; watch your muffins and not the clock.
9. Let the muffins cool down and enjoy!

What You'll Love About These Strawberry Chocolate Muffins:

Quick and easy: *Easy to make, no mixer is needed and frozen strawberries can be used*

Stays fresh and yummy: *Can be stored in an airtight container for up to 5 days at room temperature and in the freezer for up to 4 months*

Prep Time: 15 mins. / Cook Time: 20 mins.

Additional Time: 25 mins. / Total Time: 1 hr.

Servings: 14

RECIPE





BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Join us for the 2nd Annual DASH FOR DELAWARE

A scenic one-mile fun walk/run around Woodland Reservoir in the Strathmore neighborhood. Proceeds provide healthy weekend food throughout the school year for all Delaware Primary School students via our Blessings in a Backpack program.

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church—2112 S. Geddes Street, Syracuse

Registration: 9:00am Start time: 9:30am RAIN or SHINE

Suggested registration fee: \$25

Download registration & sponsorship forms at www.bellevueheights.org

Register/Donate by Mail or Online

Make checks payable to: Bellevue Heights UMC with BIBP in the memo line.

Mail to: Bellevue Heights UMC, 2112 S. Geddes Street, Syracuse NY 13207

Can't Attend? Please support our mission by making a donation.

No act of generosity is too small to make a difference.

For more information: 315-289-8505 or terryshenfeld@gmail.com



Food Truck Takeover
Great Northern Mall
Wednesdays 4-8PM

Sponsored by:

Sharon Chevrolet

We make it Simple.



Your favorite weekly food truck event is BACK!

Join us for opening day on Wednesday, April 24th for the weekly Sharon Chevrolet #SYRFoodTrucks Takeover at Great Northern Mall from 4 to 8 pm.

Join us **EVERY** Wednesday from 4 to 8 pm until September 25th at Great Northern Mall in the Dunk 'n Bright parking lot featuring 20+ locally owned food trucks and live music provided by Just Joe.

Dunk & Bright Furniture Parking Lot
4081 St. Rt. 31, Clay, NY 13041



THE 17TH ANNUAL NORTH SYRACUSE
FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 25, 2024
11AM—5PM

CENTERVILLE PLACE
700 SOUTH BAY ROAD
N. SYRACUSE, NY 13212

Fun activities include: food trucks, crafters/ vendors, bounce houses, classic car show, raffle baskets, live music and so much more!

Bible Trivia Answers: 1. Easter, 2. Ten, 3. Rushing wind, 4. They could speak in different languages, 5. Winter, 6. Dream, 7. They shall be saved, 8. Jesus, 9. They would become the Lord's footstools, 10. Jerusalem, 11. Greek, 12. Fiftieth—refers to the fiftieth day after Passover in the Old Testament, 13. Feast of Harvest— Feast of Weeks, and Feast of Firstfruits, 14. Joel's prophecy that God would "pour out The Holy Spirit on all humankind", 15. about 3,000 people were baptized, 16. Red, 17. Romeo and Juliet— "What, man, 'tis not so much, 'Tis since the nuptials of Lucentio, Come Pentecost as quickly as it will", 18. Second Chapter of Acts, 19. Charles Wesley, 20. Whitsun



MAY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	2 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.	3 PSC Group, 1:30-4	4 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
5 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC	6 PSC Group, 10-2	7	8 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	9 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building	10 PSC Group, 1:30-4 GNAC 'Too Much Light' Dessert Theater, 7PM	11 Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am -til sold out @ FJUMC GNAC 'Too Much Light' Dessert Theater, 7PM
12 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC Mother's Day	13 PSC Group, 10-2	14	15 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's	16 9AM - 12PM - Workday	17 PSC Group, 1:30-4	18 Monthly Pancake Breakfast @ 9am, FJUMC 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
19 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC Pentecost Sunday	20 PSC Group, 10-2	21	22 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	23 Memorial Committee Meeting, 10am 9AM - 12PM - Workday	24 PSC Group, 1:30-4	25 North Syracuse Family Festival, 11am-5pm Memorial Day Sale @ C&B, 10am-2pm
26 Church Lite Service, 8:30-9am @ FJUMC Peace with Justice Sunday	27 Memorial Day PSC Group, 10-2	28 Memorial Day Sale @ C&B, 4-7pm	29 Memorial Day Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's	30 Memorial Day Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	31 PSC Group, 1:30-4	6/1 Memorial Day Sale @ C&B, 10am-2pm



For the month of **MAY**, we will be collecting **Bumble Bee Tuna Salad or Chicken Salad on-the-run Kits** for Erin's Angels to ensure kids at Phoenix Elementary School have healthy and protein-packed snack options.

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