



Pastor's Page



The Stepping Stone **July 2024**

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 3:10-14

I have been on a journey of faith these past days. On June 8th I was hospitalized for a stroke. This was a life changing event. Suddenly I had to full rely on my relationship with God for everything. I had no control of my will except to reach out in anger, sadness, grief and loss. As my family gathered for my daughter's 17th birthday party, I was being stuffed in a MRI machine—being pumped full of medication and not knowing what was going to happen.



This event started as I ate breakfast and my friend could not understand my speech. He told me that If I didn't go to the ER he was going to kidnap me and take me there. I had already had two ER visits one in February and April; I did not want to go again. It turns out that I have been having mini strokes all along. I was in denial.

It's easy to live in denial until you realize that there are others in your life that count on you to be healthy and present. I deeply regret that I did not do something sooner than this event which would take me out of the pulpit for the month of June. I am not immune to emotions. I have shed many tears, embraced my loved ones, and I still find myself wondering if the God I preach about can help me, "come to believe that a power (God) greater than myself can restore me to sanity."

It is often said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting a different result. For a lot of my adult life, I have been practicing insanity with regards to my health. I can no longer live that way. My wife, daughter, and extended family are counting on me to be present and healthy. What I have learned from Rev. Melissa McCarthy of the Park United Methodist Church, Pulaski, NY, is that: "It's okay not to be okay."

Every day gets a little better. And every day I claim this scripture from Philippians 3:10 “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”

I want to go out of this world as an old man who has seen his grandchildren and lived a life worthy of my calling. I want to go out of this world kicking and screaming for Jesus, not in a hospital bed with tubes hooked up to me. I want to fully know Christ and that will take the rest of my lifetime.

I want to send love to Mike D. who insisted I go to the hospital and stay, Paul A. who visited me Sunday morning as I lay in bed not knowing what the future holds. I want to thank my mother for visiting with me as I got the news from the neurologist. Most importantly I want to send love to Mary and Kiah who have been an instrumental part of my recovery.

Thank you, for your love and care in this time. The cards, texts, phone calls and visits have been beautiful. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in this moment of crisis.

I pray God’s blessing over you and your family this day. I look forward to seeing you in worship this Sunday as it will be my first Sunday back preaching. God bless you and yours.

In Christ,

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

JULY:

July 4th — Independence Day (Office Closed)
July 10th — Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm
July 12th — GNAC: Hello Dolly! 7PM @ FJUMC
July 13th — GNAC: Hello Dolly! 2PM @ FJUMC
July 13th — Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am-sold out
July 14th — GNAC: Hello Dolly! 2PM @ FJUMC
July 18th-20th — Faith Journey Hosts Immigration Registration, 8AM-5PM
July 19th — GNAC: Hello Dolly! 7PM @ FJUMC
July 20th — Pancake Breakfast, 9am @ FJUMC
July 20th — GNAC: Hello Dolly! 7PM @ FJUMC
July 21st — GNAC: Hello Dolly! 2PM @ FJUMC
July 24th — Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm
July 31st — Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, 12-1pm



Chicken BBQ



CHICKEN BBQ DRIVE-THRU

THE SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

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

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

Join Us IN Worship

**WE ARE RETURNING TO
INDOOR WORSHIP FOR THE
SUMMER!**

We will be worshipping indoors and enjoying our beautiful sanctuary for the summer. This will best promote that everyone can hear, the opportunity for our musicians to plan and share musical performances / choir / singing and to offer a consistent space each week when weather is not always predictive.

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, July 20, 2024 at 9:00 am



Church Picnic
In addition, we will be having a fellowship picnic after service each week - meat, chips and water will be provided by the church, but feel free to bring something if you'd like to stay and enjoy time in fellowship in the cafe space.



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



Unbelievable 2024 is almost halfway done - but summer in CNY is just heating up. Just to update you on all that we've done in 2024. Each day we have more and more new people come into our store and LOVE IT! With new people, we are also getting more donations - no surprise to anyone. Thankfully, behind the scenes, we are working to get plans in place to build our new donation center and are hoping to 'break ground' (if all things go as planned) within the next month - hopefully August's newsletter will be sharing the progress being done.



We have a 'new' sale going on this week - it is called, 'Pick-A-Flag' Sale - each person who comes into the store can pick a flag - each flag has a colored end of red or blue - if it's red, the sale is a \$5 bucket sale, if it is blue, their entire purchase is 50% off. After this week's sale - we will be celebrating Christmas in July! Christmas merchandise will be available for purchase through the whole month.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

In August, we will be doing school supply giveaways - each (pre-k through college-age) student who comes into the store will receive a backpack filled with school supplies and a \$1 off coupon for a future purchase. This was so well-received last year and we are so excited to do it again!



The month of July also brings, 'Customer Appreciation' - we will be hosting FREE crafting events on Wednesdays 12-1.

July 10: Rock Painting

July 24: Plant a succulent

July 31: Repurpose / Reuse Craft

Hotdogs / chips and water will be available to guests from 12-1 each of these three Wednesdays. All are invited - so please pass the word

OUR SALES have been amazing - we hoped to meet last years sales which had exceeded any expectations and halfway through 2024, we have made over \$4600 more than this time last year - we had a monthly record sale, smashing the record sale from September 2023 by \$452! In 2023, we had sales that exceeded \$4000 in three different months - In the first six months of 2024, we've had four months over \$4,000 and one month over \$5,000 - the fall months are typically our busiest months - so strap on your seatbelt and be ready.

Enjoy your summer and thank you for all the support!



July



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - JULY - "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR"

"[The expert in the law] answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" - Luke 10:27



JULY

Happy 4th of July! I always find it awkward having a holiday in the middle of the week, but I hope you are all able to join family and friends for a celebratory BBQ. We have SO much happening at Cradle & Beyond, Faith Journey and within the community this month, please check out the newsletter and mark your calendars for events you are interested in and please consider signing up to volunteer for the NYS Immigration Registration. We just need a few people to be present at the church during the event, just in case of any emergencies or questions. We have a sign-up sheet in the lobby to select a shift of time/day to be present at FJUMC. Have a great month!



**St. Mary & St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Invites you to it's Eighth Annual
St. Mary's 2024 Egyptian Festival**

Friday, July 26th (4:00 pm—9:00 pm)
Saturday, July 27th (11:00 am—9:00pm)
Sunday, July 28th (12:00 pm-7:00 pm)

Join us for Church tours, video clips about the Coptic Church, authentic Egyptian food, desserts, hot & cold drinks, Christian and Pharaonic gifts, kids corner and much more!

FREE ADMISSION—ALL ARE INVITED
106 Church Street, North Syracuse, NY 13212

St. Elias Orthodox Church **Middle Eastern Festival**

July 11-14, 2024

**St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church
Invites you to our Annual
Middle Eastern Festival**

Thursday, July 11th (4:00 pm—6:00 pm)
Friday, July 12th (4:00 pm—6:00 pm)
Saturday, July 13th (4:00 pm—6:00 pm)
Sunday, July 14th (4:00 pm—6:00 pm)

Come and enjoy our delectable, made from scratch foods, dance to our music, and experience our Culture and Church.

FREE ADMISSION—ALL ARE INVITED
4988 Onondaga Rd. Syracuse, NY 13215

BIBLE TRIVIA

Across the Biblical Spectrum Pt. 2

1. What book speaks of an industrious wife who wears clothes of fine purple linen?
2. What prophet saw a drought end when the sky grew black?
3. What book mentions people who had worn purple pawing through the garbage of Jerusalem?
4. What servant of a prophet had his skin turned white as snow?
5. What color were the fabrics used inside Solomon's temple?
6. Which of Jesus' parables mentions a rich man dressed in purple robes?
7. What insect invasion made the Egyptian ground black?
8. Who prayed that the day he was born would be covered with blackness?
9. Who had a vision of horsemen with breastplates that were yellow like sulfur?
10. How many times does the Bible mention brown?
11. What book mentions an immoral woman covering her bed with colored sheets from Egypt?
12. What prophet saw a multicolored eagle carrying off the top of a cedar tree?
13. What disease was considered to be healed if healthy black hair was growing on the skin?
14. What creature eliminated every green thing from the land of Egypt?
15. In Revelation, what did the rider on the red horse bring to the earth?
16. What kind of pastures are mentioned in Psalm 23?
17. According to Proverbs, what kind of person thrives like a green leaf?
18. What prophet says that God is like a green tree giving shelter to those who trust him?
19. In Revelation, what caused the green grass on earth to be burned up?
20. What color do the armies of heaven, in Revelations, wear?
21. What color cord was the harlot Rahab supposed to tie to her window so the Israelites would recognize her home?
22. In Revelation, what did the rider on the black horse bring to the earth?
23. What book mentions a woman with lips like scarlet ribbon?
24. What color was the horse in Revelation that carried a rider with a pair of scales in his hands?
25. According to Job, what animal searches for green things to eat in the mountains?

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

Great Northern Artists Collaborative Presents:



GNAC would like to offer members and friends of FJUMC discount tickets to their performance of HELLO DOLLY! Tickets are only \$10 and can be paid for at the door the day of the show.

Please let Beth Jordan know which show you plan to attend and your name will be provided to the crew working the event!

GNAC Presents: *Hello Dolly!*

Friday, July 12th @ 7PM
Saturday, July 13th @ 2PM
Sunday, July 14th @ 2PM
Friday, July 19th @ 7PM
Saturday, July 20th @ 7PM
Sunday, July 21st @ 2PM

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

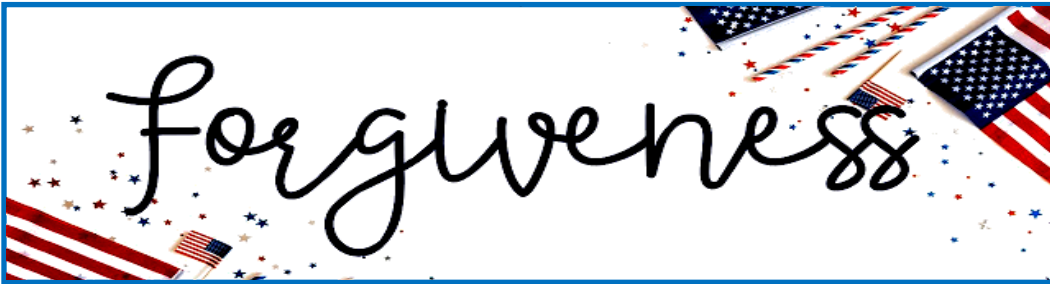
FJUMC FAMILY & FRIENDS DISCOUNT: \$10
General Admission: \$20 + fee
Seniors/Students: \$15 + fee
Ticketor.com/gnac

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



Faith Journey will be hosting the NYS Immigration Coalition July 18—July 20, as they work with Guatemalan refugees on gaining knowledge about becoming citizens. The organization has volunteers and workers, but we are looking for volunteers to show hospitality and be present in our space to field any questions or possibly emergencies. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby for days & times to volunteer. We hope you are able to help participate in this fantastic opportunity!

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 - 1 John 1:5-7

Day 2 - 1 John 1:8-10

Day 3 - 1 John 2:1-4

Day 4 - 1 John 2:5-8

Day 5 - 1 John 2:9-11

Day 6 - 1 John 2:12-14

Day 7 - 2 Chronicles 7:13-16

Day 8 - 2 Corinthians 2:9-11

Day 9 - Acts 2:37-39

Day 10 - Colossians 1:9-14

Day 11 - Colossians 3:12-15

Day 12 - 2 Corinthians 2:5-8

Day 13 - Ephesians 1:3-8

Day 14 - Ephesians 4:26-30

Day 15 - Ephesians 4:31-32

Day 16 - James 5:14-16

Day 17 - John 8:1-11

Day 18 - Luke 7:44-50

Day 19 - Luke 17:1-4

Day 20 - Mark 11:24-25

Day 21 - Matthew 5:23-24

Day 22 - Matthew 6:12, 14-15

Day 23 - Matthew 18:21-22

Day 24 - Micah 7:18-19

Day 25 - Psalm 32:1-5

Day 26 - Psalm 86:3-5

Day 27 - Psalm 103:1-4

Day 28 - Psalm 103:8-12

Day 29 - Romans 3:21-24

Day 30 - Romans 3:25-26

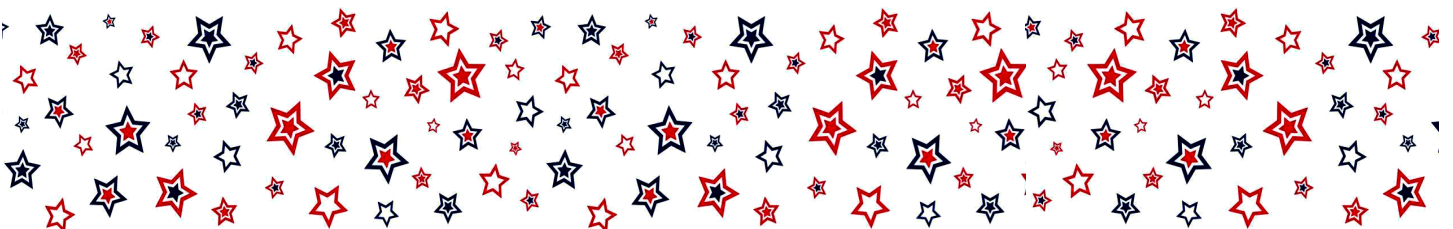
Day 31 - Romans 8:1-4

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.





Lemon-Blueberry Blondies

"With these delicious bars, you still get that signature chewy blondie texture, but can eat these for dessert, for breakfast, or as an anytime snack. These are rich, buttery, caramel-y, and fruit-filled, proving once and for all that blondies can be just as versatile and exciting as brownies!"

Recipe by: Laura Rege

<https://www.delish.com/lemon-blueberry-blondies>

NATIONAL
BLUEBERRY
DAY



INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, *melted and slightly cooled*
- 2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 kosher salt
- 2 large eggs, *lightly beaten*
- 1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup fresh blueberries, *divided*
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Grease a 9" square baking pan with cooking spray. Line with parchment, leaving an overhang on 2 opposite sides. Grease parchment with cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk brown sugar, butter, vanilla, lemon zest, baking powder, and salt until well combined. Stir in eggs until well combined. Add flour and stir just until combined. Add 3/4 cup blueberries and fold just to distribute.
3. Scrape batter into prepared pan; smooth top. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup blueberries.
4. Bake blondies until golden and a tester inserted into the center comes out clean, about 35 minutes. Transfer pan to a wire rack and let cool completely.
5. In a small bowl, whisk powdered sugar and lemon juice, adding water a few drops at a time, until a drizzling consistency is reached. Drizzle glaze over cooled blondies. Let set 15 minutes.
6. Using parchment overhang, lift blondies out of pan and transfer to a cutting board. Slice and serve.

Prep Time: 10 mins.

Total Time: 3 hrs.

Yields: 16



UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars EVENTS



Syracuse Baseball Game

Syracuse Mets VS. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders

Saturday, September 6, 2024 at 6:35 PM

Join us for our annual 'A Night at the Ballpark' alongside University United Methodist Church. We have patio seating similar to last year. Please sign-up for tickets at Faith Journey or email fjoffice@fjunc.org to reserve your tickets. Sign-up sheet is located in the lobby/café area. Make checks payable to Daniel Bradley or give payment directly to Pastor Bradley. Payment for tickets must be made by 8/20/24.

Tickets: Adults \$50, Kids \$25
Children 2 & under are FREE

(meal & drinks are included in ticket price)

NBT Bank Stadium
1 Tex Simone Dr. Syracuse, NY 13208

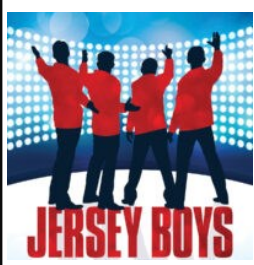


ON FARM FEST

Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 10AM

On Saturday, Sept. 21st, 12-Syracuse-area farms will open for free, family-friendly tours! Meet farm animals, from cows to horses– even alpacas! Enjoy live music, activities for kids, demos and interactive exhibits, giveaways and food/drinks available for purchase!

Visit any of the farms you'd like in any order! Visit www.onfarmfest.com to plan your day and get directions.



SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF LANCASTER, PA

Featuring Sight & Sound's "DANIEL" & "Jersey Boys" at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre



**3 DAYS—2 NIGHTS
SEPTEMBER 18—20, 2024**



Package includes: 2 nights lodging at the La Quinta Inn & Suites in Ronks, PA, 2 Breakfasts, Lunch at Liz Fisher's Homestead, 2 Dinners including Hershey Farm Restaurant & Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre featuring "Jersey Boys", Performance of Daniel at the Sight & Sound Theatre, Guided tour of the Amish Countryside, including stops at an Amish Craft Farm & Bake Shop, Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market, Historical Hershey Trolley Tour, Hershey's Chocolate World, Souvenir gift, Luggage Handling, Taxes & Meal Gratuities, and Motorcoach Transportation.

For more information and reservations, please contact Sarah Bieling at (315) 695-6696
2 County Route 10. Pennellville, NY 13132

Bible Trivia Answers: 1. Proverbs, 2. Elijah, 3. Lamentations, 4. Gehazi—Elisha's servant, 5. Blue, red, and purple, 6. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus, 7. Locusts, 8. Job, 9. John, 10. Once (the color of a horse), 11. Proverbs, 12. Ezekiel, 13. Leprosy, 14. The locusts, 15. War, 16. Green pastures, 17. A righteous person, 18. Hosea, 19. Hail, fire and blood poured on the earth, 20. White, 21. Scarlet, 22. Famine, 23. Song of Solomon, 24. Black, 25. Wild donkeys



JULY 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	2	3 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	4 Independence Day (office closed) 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	5 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	6 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
7	8 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	9	10 Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, Rock Painting, 12-1pm 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's	11 9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Building	12 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i> HELLO DOLLY! 7PM @ FJUMC	13 Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am -til sold out @ FJUMC HELLO DOLLY! 2PM @ FJUMC
14 HELLO DOLLY! 2PM @ FJUMC	15 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	16	17 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's	18 NYS Immigration Registration, 8am-5pm 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	19 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i> NYS Immigration Registration, 8am-5pm HELLO DOLLY! 7PM @ FJUMC	20 Monthly Pancake Breakfast @ 9am, FJUMC NYS Immigration Registration, 8am-5pm HELLO DOLLY! 7PM @ FJUMC
21 HELLO DOLLY! 2PM @ FJUMC	22 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	23	24 Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, Plant Succulents, 12-1pm 9:30 AM - Prayer & Holy communion in Pastor's Office	25 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	26 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	27 9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
28	29 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	30	31 Crafts & Lunch @ C&B, Repurpose/Reuse, 12-1pm			



FoodPantry

For the month of **JULY**, we will be collecting **Assorted Personal Care Items** for *Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church*.

Items Include:

- ◆ Toilet Paper
- ◆ Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- ◆ Mouthwash & Dental floss
- ◆ Shampoo & Body wash
 - ◆ Soap & Sanitizers
 - ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Shaving cream & Razors
- ◆ Lotion & Sunscreen
- ◆ Feminine products (pads/tampons)



Seek

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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

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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