



## Pastor's Page



# The Stepping Stone January 2025

Dear Friend,

Christmas 2024

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, I pray that our hearts will be flooded with light, love and gratitude; bearing kindness and generosity as we draw near to His holy and unchanging presence. It is in Christ alone that we find the hope to face tomorrow, and the zeal and passion to press on with this spiritual race in a culture that feasts on self-image and promotes excessively on materialism.

In anticipation of advent season, I found myself probing down this quiet, intrusive path of self-reflection and was challenged with this particular question on faith: *"Where do you see your finish line?"* It's rather a simple unambiguous question, yet, beckons a response that is far from easy to relay. Pledging allegiance to God is committing to the defense of truth that would require every ounce of breath, strength and dignity within. As Winston Churchill put it, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." God bids us to fish for men, and as difficult as that may be, our very lives must be given up for the Cross of Calvary to speak. Unwavering devotion to the Gospel demands all for Jesus; none to self. For only in the daily, personal pursuit of Christ can our lives hold meaning, purpose and significance. The sacrifices are fated; the struggles are real; the call is evident; and the choice is one of conscious volition.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

In examining the cost of discipleship, I am confronted with the fear of God, gripping at my trembling soul. However, it is in my Savior's joy that I find the courage to surrender my inadequacies and trust my future to His authority. My sole assertion, given the suffering one must endure as a disciple, is that the call of God leads us directly to the cross; for it is through the cross that grace defines grace, and glory is displayed.

My friend, as you direct your heart toward giving to the work of God, your desire to see Jesus spread locally and globally, yields an abundant harvest of everlasting fruit. God's inherent nature is to bless and multiply. It is in love that God breathed life into every man, woman and child, creating us all in His own image.

I thank God for you and for your continued favor and partnership with the ongoing ministries in southeast Asia. Lending to the poor may be repaid with no more than a smile on the face of Jesus, but that beautiful smile is worth far greater than a lifetime of saving on earth. Eternity is already received in ransom for the smallest deeds done to the "least of these."

May God's blessings be upon you and your household this Christmas as you gather to rejoice in the arrival of the promised Messiah.

With all my love in Jesus Christ,

*Tina*



### Thanksgivings:

- ♥ 205 people from VN and Laos heard the Gospel
- ♥ 5 people in the highlands of VN accepted Jesus.
- ♥ 3 people in Laos came to Christ.
- ♥ God directed the young girls to a new home. They are expected to sign the rental contract early next week. The girls will live upstairs, and the bottom level will be converted into Harvest Café – Cambodia.



### Prayer Requests:

- ♥ Pray for the Christmas outreach
- ♥ Pray for wisdom, protection and financial support for all the evangelists/workers
- ♥ Pray for God's provision to re-establish the café/student dormitory (\$15k start up).
- ♥ Pray for all the leaders. Pray for unity and God's anointing.



# What's Happening

## JANUARY:

**January 1st**—New Years Day (*office closed*)

**January 16th**— Chili Challenge Fellowship, 5PM @ FJUMC

**January 18th**—Pancake Breakfast, 9AM @ FJUMC Café

**January 19th**— Human Relations Sunday

**January 20th**—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**January 20th**—President Inauguration Day

**January 26th**—Collection of Socks & Winterwear Ends for Novelis

**Guest Speaker**—*We are so blessed to have Deborah O'Connor-Slater preaching on Sunday Mornings at FJUMC for the whole month of January*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Chili Challenge FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

5:00 PM

Faith Journey UMC

8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT REV. SAI SHWE AND THE FAMILY OF BLESSINGS FARM, LLC. IN CANASTOTA, NY

Please RSVP by January 12th so we can get a Chili headcount. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Beth at (315) 657-5701

## Monthly Pancake Breakfast at Faith Journey UMC

NEXT DATE—January 18th at 9am in the upper Café area



### FUTURE DATES:

February 15, 2015 @ 9am

March 15, 2025 @ 9am

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US!  
Bring family and friends with you!**

*Please note: There is no cost to attend this breakfast, but donations to continue ministry are very much welcome and appreciated*

Faith Journey UMC  
8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041

## SOCK & WINTER WEAR DRIVE



C&B and FJUMC will collect winter wear and new socks through January 26 which will be donated to Novelis and will be delivered to families in Oswego County.

Donate a pair of socks or winter wear to keep families warm during the winter. We are in need of men's, women's and children's socks, preferably wool.

Bring your donations into C&B or FJUMC by January 26th. Thank you for supporting this important mission!



# 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 New Year 2025

The store is clean, the floors all shine,  
 We've worked and toiled to make it fine.  
 New carts are here, four bright and new,  
 Ready for the shopping everyone will do.

A record quarter, sales so high,  
 We reached new heights, we touched the sky.  
 Yet more than profits we've earned with pride,  
 49.6% of proceeds went to the side  
 To FJUMC and others in need,  
 A gesture of kindness, a generous deed.

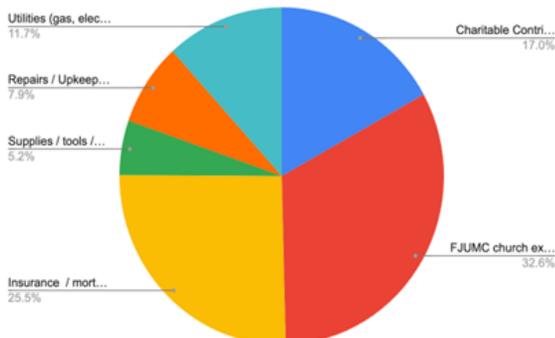
Gallons of goods, sold and shared,  
 Given to 25 groups, because we cared.  
 109 backpacks, filled with supplies,  
 Given to children, to brighten their eyes.

The floors are waxed, the aisles restocked,  
 The shelves are neat, and all things locked.  
 A new chair sits at the desk, you'll see—  
 (But not for sale, please, don't disagree!)

The floor plan's changed, a fresh new sight,  
 Come check it out, we're ready for flight.  
 We're blessed to serve, to give, to grow,  
 So much to share—come in and know.

This week we reopen, stronger and bright,  
 Thank you for your patience,  
 your trust, your light.

So shop, so give, so take a stand  
 Our community, together, hand in hand.



WHEN YOU  
 SHOP AND  
 SAVE AT C&B—  
 YOU SUPPORT  
 OUR MISSION!



## MISSION moments

\$2500 was donated by C&B to the following organizations:

- \* Beautiful Mess Ministries
- \* Samaritan Center
- \* In My Father's Kitchen
- \* We Rise Above the Streets
- \* CNY Bike Giveaway
- \* Clearpath for Veterans
- \* Helping Hounds
- \* Animal Alliance
- \* Harvest Café
- \* Southern Sudan Health Projects



**SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - JANUARY - "WITH GOD'S BLESSING"**

*"Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor."*

- Nehemiah 1:11



**JANUARY**

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Years! It's been really fun seeing my family and celebrating together this holiday season, but of course I got sick and I'm beginning the New Year with a cold! I am starting to feel better, but it's been a rough first week of January for me dealing with the typical cold symptoms. I hope you all stay healthy this year, make sure to get your Flu shot and take extra precautions, let's all get through the wintertime without the any sniffles and coughs! *Wishing you a 2025 full of blessings and memories to treasure!*

**VOLUNTEERS**  
**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
**SIGN UP TODAY!**



In 2025, we are asking for people to select a month: Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, July, Aug (school supplies) Sept, Oct, Nov (Thanksgiving bags), Dec (hats, mittens, socks, etc) and an organization to collect for - Please let Beth Jordan and Sara Mertz know what month you would like to be responsible for, what organization you'd like to collect for and please reach out to the organization to see what it is they need. Please ask if you are unsure of an organization to help or need assistance in making contact with them.

**SPECIAL SUNDAY**



**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY SUNDAY**

We celebrate and acknowledge our support of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of "the Beloved Community"  
 Donations support ministries of advocacy and community engagement

**JANUARY 19, 2025**

The Human Relations Day offering supports social justice and outreach ministries that empower all God's children to realize their full potential as human beings in relationship with one another. This fund helps encourage that potential through ministries like the Community Developers Program, multiethnic ministries and countless other projects across the United Methodist connection. These funds are administered by Global Ministries in collaboration with **The General Board of Church and Society.**

# **BIBLE TRIVIA**

## *Methodist Founder John Wesley Trivia Quiz*

1. What was John Wesley's middle name?
2. Who was "Old Jeffery?"
3. What did Wesley's parents call him?
4. What traumatic event in his childhood made his mother think his life had a special calling?
5. When did Wesley dedicate his life to God because he said it was impossible to be "half Christian?"
6. Who started the group nicknamed the Holy Club, or Bible Moths, or Methodists?
7. Why did Wesley go to America?
8. What was the name of the ship that brought Wesley to America?
9. Where did Wesley live during his two years in America?
10. Why did Wesley start preaching outdoors?
11. What issue caused the separation of George Whitefield and Wesley?
12. What musical instrument did John Wesley play?
13. Where did Wesley deliver a sermon when his father's church refused to let him preach?
14. To whom did he marry and when?
15. What was Wesley's suggested cure for baldness?
16. What was the physical appearance of this great man?
17. What was the subject of Wesley's final letter (2/24/1791)?
18. What were Wesley's final words?

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

In 1738, John Wesley had an intense religious experience at a meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. Following this experience, he began preaching throughout the country and forming "classes" and "bands". In these classes and bands, members met regularly for learning and personal accountability. The following questions were used by Wesley for self-examination--and are sure to be a bit convicting and motivating even for us today.

### **Check out John Wesley's 22 Questions for Self-Examination Below:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite? | 12. Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?  |
| 2. Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?  | 13. Do I disobey God in anything?  |
| 3. Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?  | 14. Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?  |
| 4. Can I be trusted?  | 15. Am I defeated in any part of my life?  |
| 5. Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?   | 16. Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?   |
| 6. Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?   | 17. How do I spend my spare time?  |
| 7. Did the Bible live in me today?  | 18. Am I proud?  |
| 8. Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?   | 19. Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?                             |
| 9. Am I enjoying prayer?  | 20. Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it? |
| 10. When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?   | 21. Do I grumble or complain constantly?   |
| 11. Do I pray about the money I spend?  | 22. Is Christ real to me?  |

# JANUARY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



## January

*Setting and Achieving Goals*



### 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.

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 - Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 2 - 2 Chronicles 15:7

Day 3 - Psalm 20:4-5

Day 4 - James 4:13-16

Day 5 - Hebrews 12:1-3

Day 6 - Matthew 6:33

Day 7 - Psalm 118:8-9

Day 8 - Psalm 127:1-2

Day 9 - Hebrews 10:35-36

Day 10 - Philemon 4:12-13

Day 11 - Proverbs 4:12-13

Day 12 - Proverbs 16:2-3

Day 13 - Philemon 4:8

Day 14 - Proverbs 19:20-21

Day 15 - Philemon 3:13-14

Day 16 - Romans 12:2

Day 17 - Isaiah 32:8

Day 18 - John 6:27

Day 19 - Proverbs 29:18

Day 20 - John 6:29

Day 21 - Jeremiah 17:7-8

Day 22 - Luke 14:28

Day 23 - Philemon 1:3-6

Day 24 - Ephesians 2:10

Day 25 - Ephesians 4:22-24

Day 26 - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Day 27 - 1 Peter 3:3-4

Day 28 - Ecclesiastes 7:16-18

Day 29 - Psalm 18:30-32

Day 30 - Psalm 18:33-34

Day 31 - Psalm 18:35-36





# RecipeCorner



## Copycat Chick-fil-A Tortilla Soup

*“Chick-fil-A Tortilla soup is absolutely delicious, but there’s two issues however, it’s only a seasonal item, so it’s not available certain times of year, and it’s also not gluten-free—but with this healthier copycat recipe you can have this soup all year round and it’s also completely gluten-free and dairy-free!”*

*Recipe by: Mary from Mary’s Whole Life Website*

### INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 lbs chicken breasts, *I used 3 breasts*
- 1 onion, *diced*
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1 jalapeno, *seeded & diced*
- 4.5 oz can diced green chiles
- 2 teaspoon cumin
- 2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1.5 teaspoon salt, *more to taste*
- 15 oz can diced tomatoes, *with juices*
- 15 oz jar red enchilada sauce, *you can also substitute 15 oz plain tomato sauce if preferred*
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 15 oz can black beans, *drained and rinsed*
- 15 oz canned corn, *drained and rinsed*
- *Homemade tortilla strips—you can use almond flour tortillas with avocado oil spray and sea salt, or use premade, store bought tortillas of your choice*

### DIRECTIONS

1. Add all ingredients (except for the tortillas) into your slow cooker and give it a good stir. Cook on high for 4 hours, or low for 7-8 hours.
2. While the soup is cooking, make the homemade tortilla strips.
3. Preheat oven to 400 and line a baking sheet with foil. Stack the tortillas and use a pizza cutter to cut them into vertical strips, and then again once horizontally to cut those strips in half (if not making homemade tortilla strips—then skip tortilla steps).
4. Add the strips to the baking sheet and spread them out evenly. Spray generously with avocado oil and sprinkle with sea salt. Bake for 7 to 10 minutes, checking often, until they are beginning to brown and are crispy. Set aside.
5. When the soup is done, remove the chicken shred it using 2 forks, then return it to the pot. Stir and season with additional salt and pepper if desired.
6. Serve the soup topped with the crispy tortilla strips, cheese, sour cream, cilantro, and avocado or toppings of your choice and ENJOY!

#### Mary’s Tips & Tricks:

- \* **Instant Pot:** To make this in the Instant Pot, add the ingredients to the pot and stir. Cook on high pressure for 12 minutes. Remove the chicken and shred it, then return it to the pot. Using this method will have your Chick-fil-A tortilla soup ready in under 30 minutes!
- \* **Storage:** Store leftover soup in an airtight container in the refrigerator and reheat it in the microwave or on the stovetop. Store homemade tortilla strips and other toppings separately.
- \* **Chicken:** If you’re in a rush and you don’t have time for the slow cooker to cook the chicken breasts, you can use cooked rotisserie chicken. This will significantly decrease the cooking time in the slow cooker to 1 hour on high. You could also skip the slow cooker and put all ingredients into a large pot and simmer over medium heat on the stovetop for about 20-30 minutes.
- \* **Stovetop:** To make this soup in a pot on the stove, add all ingredients into a large stock pot, bring to a boil, then simmer for 30-45 minutes until the chicken is tender enough to shred. Shred it, then add back into the pot and stir.
- \* **Toppings:** Serve the soup topped with crispy tortilla strips, cheese sour cream, cilantro, and avocado or toppings of your choice! This recipe does not include dairy, however, many of the suggested toppings do—you can use dairy-free shredded cheese substitute or your favorite sour cream substitute.

**Prep Time: 10 mins. | Cook Time: 4 hrs. | Yields about 8 servings**

# JANUARY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	3	4  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.
5	6  <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	7	8	9  9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build- ing	10  <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	11  9AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building
12	13  <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	14	15	16  <i>Chili Challenge Fellowship, 5PM @ FJUMC</i>  <i>Ministries Council Meeting, 6:30PM</i>	17  <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	18  <i>Monthly Pan- cake Breakfast, 9am @ FJUMC Café</i>  9AM - 12PM - Workday
19  <i>Human Rela- tions Sunday</i>	20  <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>  <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	21	22	23  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building	24  <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	25  9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building
26	27  <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	28	29	30	31  <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	

**Bible Trivia Answers:** 1. Benjamin, 2. The family “poltergeist”, as named by his sisters, 3. Jack, or Jacky, 4. He was rescued from a fire in the nick of time, 5. 1725, 6. Charles Wesley, 7. He wanted to prove his own faith by evangelizing the Native Americans, 8. The Simmonds, 9. Savannah, Georgia, 10. Churches wouldn’t give him the pulpit, so he followed Whitefield’s example of preaching outdoors, 11. Predestination vs. free-will, 12. Flute, 13. Outside, standing upon his father’s tomb, 14. Widow, Mary Vazeille, 1751, 15. Rub with an onion twice a day till red, then rub with honey, 16. Almost 5’6”, 120-130 pounds, long hair, 17. His opposition to slavery, 18. “Farewell”

# CNY DIAPER BANK



In January, FJUMC will be accepting the following items for the **CNY Diaper Bank** whose mission is to: *"ensure that all CNY families have access to an adequate supply of diapers for their babies and toddlers, and to build awareness in our community that diapers are a basic human need not being met for all children"*

- New packages of diapers (size 6 are needed the most)
  - Opened packages
- Cloth diapers, wet bags, pail liners, and any and all cloth diapering accessories, in good condition
  - Period products
  - Infant Formula
  - Baby Food
- Baby soaps, lotions, ointment
  - Wipes
  - Laundry detergent
- Adult incontinence briefs/pads (MUST BE IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING-Loose supplies will not be accepted)

***Thanks so much 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