



Pastor's **Page**



The Stepping Stone **April 2025**

“And therefore, as a stranger give it welcome. There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.” HAMLET ACT 1, SCENE 5

An argument has occurred throughout history: Can science and faith coexist? The answer lies in what you believe and what makes you curious about what you're sure you don't think you believe. Until Columbus sailed from Spain in 1492, at the direction of the Pope, people were convinced that the earth was flat. Columbus proved them wrong.

He didn't sail off the world's edge, but his journey took him to the West Indies and North America. These were not continents that Columbus had not discovered but places where he had arrived. Upon his arrival, he did atrocious things by committing genocide to the native people in the name of God and the Catholic Church, all while using the moon, sun, and stars of the heavens as his guide.

Learn from yesterday,
live for today, hope for
tomorrow. The
important thing is not
to stop questioning.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Since we started charting the stars, humanity has been sure Earth was the center of the universe. Galileo did not discover that the Earth revolves around the Sun; he supported and provided evidence for the heliocentric model proposed by Nicolaus Copernicus in 1601. Galileo's significant observations that supported this theory were made in 1610 when he used his telescope to study celestial bodies. Because of his work and theories, he was excommunicated, his writings and books were confiscated, he was forbidden to teach and put under house arrest to live out his days only with his thoughts and ideas. Yet every day, he saw the sun, moon, and stars and wondered about the maker of this universe. Individuals are rational; people in large groups are always afraid of what they don't understand.

The Church and its response to what doesn't fit the norm are far worse. We have a legacy of persecuting individuals who believe differently. Don't believe me, just Google “church atrocities.” All through the history of humanity, the Church has imprisoned, killed theologians, burned texts, and all for the protection of the institution and control over the masses. It wasn't until Gutenberg's printing press developed in 1452 that the Gutenberg Bible was created in the vernacular of the day. It is said that only 300 copies were made, making it one of the rarest books in the world. Guttenberg died in 1468, but his legacy lives on.

In 1501, Pope Alexander VI promised excommunication for anyone who printed manuscripts without the church's approval. Twenty years later, books by John Calvin and Martin Luther, leaders of the Protestant Reformation, spread, bringing into reality what Alexander had feared. Furthering that threat, Copernicus published his *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres*, in 1610 which the church saw as heresy.

Scientists, writers, and philosophers have been trying to explain the cosmos since cave people scribbled pictures on the walls. What we take in with our human eyes is limited to what our brain can process. Einsteins' IQ was 160. Marilyn Monroe's IQ was assumed to be 168; however, no record supports that claim. She was a voracious reader of history, philosophy, politics, and non-fiction novels, and it is said that her home contained over 400 volumes of great compositions and texts.

She hated being referred to as a 'dumb blond' but played the part because Hollywood offered her plenty of money for doing so. As a high school dropout who lived and suffered in foster homes, her self-image was damaged, and the persona that she put on was strictly for theatrical performances. It was said that her depression was so great that the number of pharmaceuticals prescribed would leave her dazed for days.

She was offered an out-of-the-Hollywood life and invited by Einstein to come and teach at Harvard. She refused because she knew she could make more money in Hollywood than in academia. The life she chose led to her untimely death as opposed to the contributions that she could have made in the 20th century.

Einstein saw the best in people and the world in four dimensions through science, empirical evidence, his theories on the mechanics of the universe, and, yes, a God he 'was' or 'was not' sure existed. It is my understanding that what I know is limited to what God has revealed to me over my few short years in this world.

The way that my faith has grown and, at times, retracted has caused me to question who I am in this universe and what I believe about the things of God. Sure, I have the scriptures, but the scriptures without the church's traditions, my reason, and my personal experiences tell me nothing about the God who created me in the Imago Dei (image of God).

God gave me a brain and the intellect to question not only what I know but what I don't know, and that kind of questioning doesn't come easy. It means laying all our cards on the table and asking God, "Who are you?" without fear of condemnation.

What or who we may or may not believe in shows us the world before us. The world that is opened to us is full of possibilities if we are willing to accept that not everything has a reason for its existence. Still, its very existence tells us something about our creator and the universe.

The French philosopher Descartes said, "I think, therefore I am." The question of who we are is not because we have intellect and can reason as human beings but because we are divine beings having a human experience. What the human experience tells me is that there is joy and sorrow, times of regret and times of progress, moments we can understand and those that appear to be mysteries of faith.

Humans have been trying to understand the mysteries of the universe for thousands of years, and each time we learn something new; we are forced to ask the toughest question of all: “Who am I in the middle of this cosmos?”

As Christians, we don’t know everything. Einstein didn’t know everything, and he knew that for a fact. He was born and raised a Jew, and he struggled with his own experience of God. His rational mind told him one thing, but his faith experience told him another.

I believe it was not until days before his death that he made his peace with God. I think that the only reason that he did this was because he kept questioning everything that he knew in this world. Einstein realized from an early age that he was just one part of the cosmos, and his attempt to understand that cosmos drove his work. His work led to some of the most incredible scientific advances in the 20th century and the most terrifying: the birth of the atomic bomb.

Sometimes, it takes a lifetime to get past what we think is “true” and “what is true” that is, the depth of faith does not come too quickly. We can connect faith and science through our understanding of the scriptures through the lens of the church’s traditions, reason, and personal experience. And that my friend is OK. Sometimes, there aren’t answers to our queries. Sometimes, we must trust the empirical proof. Other times, we go with what our gut tells us.

Question everything and ask God to show you a path to the truth. Our world is wrapped in faith and science, and they can coexist; if not, how did you get here?

In grace,



Rev. Daniel J. Bradley

“Change for Change” Mission

We collected \$65 for Southern Sudan Health Project during the month of March for our Change for Change mission. This donation will help the 8 health care workers bring basic medicine and care to their villages.



“Change for Change” for the month of April will be donated to Rev. Sai Shwe and The Family of Blessings Farm, LLC. Located in Canastota, NY.

Thank you for your continued support! - Linda Raulli

What's Happening

APRIL:

April 6th—Lenten Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. @ FJUMC
April 10th—Ministries Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ FJUMC
April 13th—Lenten Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. @ FJUMC
April 13th—Palm Sunday, 10:30 a.m. @ FJUMC
April 17th—Holy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. @ FJUMC
April 18th—Good Friday, 8:00 p.m. @ FJUMC
April 19th—Monthly Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. @ FJUMC
April 20th—Easter Sunday, 10:30 a.m. @ FJUMC
April 26th—Roast Beef Dinner Drive-Thru & Limited Dine-in, 4:00-6:00 p.m. @ FJUMC
Lenten Book Study with Pastor Bradley—Every Wednesday, 4:00—6:00 p.m. at the Cradle & Beyond Building (7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212)

Grandma's Old-Fashioned



Roast Beef Dinner Drive-Thru & Dine-In



Saturday, April 26, 2025
4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

DRIVE-THRU DINNER

\$16.00

Adult dinner includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, a roll with butter and homemade dessert.

Children's dinner is a half-portion of the dinner. \$8.00

DINE-IN DINNER

\$17.00

Please call (315) 263-1014 with your name and number of people in your group to reserve your dine-in spot.



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

CHICKEN BBQ DRIVE-THRU



Saturday, May 10, 2025
11:00 a.m.—until sold out!



Faith Journey UMC—8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041



Holy Week & Easter Services

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 18, 2025 at 8:00 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Lenten Breakfast

UPCOMING DATES: Sunday, April 6th & 13th
There will be a free-will Lenten Breakfast on Sundays during Lent at 9:30 am in the upper Café area

Monthly Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, April 19, 2025 at 9:00 am in the upper Café area

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





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



As I write this newsletter, we are in the throes of an amazing bucket sale and it's exciting to share that Brooklyn Pickle donated more buckets for our next bucket sale! We just need to clean and rid the smell of pickles from them :)

After reflecting on how the Blessing Box, fresh produce and produce is working, we have decided to add some limitations on what people can take during a visit. Beginning this week, we are limiting people to take 2 items per visit - this will allow others opportunities to have access to foods items.

We have been low on non-perishable foods and will be asking FJUMC friends to bring in non-perishable food items in the month of April to replenish the C & B Blessing Box.

Update on the new storage space at C&B - we have been in contact with the architect and are hoping to have finalized plans soon. We have also been in contact with the Town of Cicero Highway Department who will be looking to fix the potholes at the edge of Kopp Ave and the parking lot.

MISSION



MOMENTS

Mission Moment for the month: A couple come into C&B often during the Bucket Sales to get infant clothing to donate to New Hope Pregnancy Centers - the husband has severe dementia and often sits in a chair as his wife shops close by watching so he does not wander off. He does not talk much - however, on Saturday, two spanish speaking gentlemen, new to the store, came in and it was quickly realized that they did not speak English, as we were trying to explain about the bucket sale and I was downloading google translate, the gentleman with dementia, stands up and in Spanish has a conversation with these men and tells them all about the bucket sale and what they can / can't put in it and how much it costs! It was amazing :) God shows himself in several amazing ways!



On May 8th, C&B will again be participating in the Oswego County Baby Shower - we are so excited to be able to donate some new products to the raffle they will have as well as will make up 'gift bags' to give away to attendees.

Enjoy Spring and welcome back to our snowbirds, we missed you :)
Thank you for all that you do!



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - APRIL - "SHOWING KINDNESS"

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."

- 1 Corinthians 13:4



APRIL

HAPPY SPRING! I am very excited for the warmer weather and hope to get some lawn/house work done soon! Our house siding got ripped off from intense wind gusts a few weeks ago and we are hoping our insurance will help us replace it, maybe we can even choose a new color! We are hopeful they will cover some of the costs so we can get it fixed soon. I had a wonderful birthday at the end of March, and wanted to thank you for all for the birthday wishes and cards, it's very much appreciated. Have a blessed Holy week and Easter!

Trustees Update:

- ♦ You may have noticed that the gutters in the front of the church have fallen down this winter - thankfully, Comfort Windows had been working with the trustees on getting new ones installed and earlier this month the weather cooperated and new gutters and downspouts were installed on the front of the church - they look amazing! Thank you C&B for covering the cost of this 'curb appeal'.
- ♦ As soon as spring finally arrives, you'll see more work being done on the portico and installation of new lighting by the driveway entrance. Thank you to the Trustees for their planning and work on beautifying our church property.
- ♦ Chicken BBQ's will be beginning in May! Mark your calendars for May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, and September 13. Please let Mike or Beth Jordan know if you're interested in helping prep the chickens (on Thursday evening), cook the chickens (on Saturday) or pack / be a runner on chicken BBQ days
- ♦ GNAC has had great success with their showing of Steel Magnolias - Beetlejuice Junior is their next show (June 6th, 7th, 8th 13th, 14th & 15th)
- ♦ You may notice on Fridays when you drive by the church that there is no place to park - Circle of Friends continue to have a HUGE turnout for their Karaoke Days! In addition, they have begun monthly cooking groups on Fridays. We are so fortunate to have two amazing groups using our church.

APRIL SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Repentance & Renewal



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 - II Corinthians 6:1-2

Day 2 - Revelations 3:19-22

Day 3 - Ephesians 5:8

Day 4 - Hebrews 10:16-17

Day 5 - Philippians 1:3-6

Day 6 - Galatians 6:1-5

Day 7 - II Peter 3:13-14

Day 8 - II Timothy 1:12-13

Day 9 - Philippians 3:13-14

Day 10 - James 5:16

Day 11 - James 5:19-20

Day 12 - II John 9

Day 13 - I John 3:1-3

Day 14 - II Corinthians 6:16-18

Day 15 - Hebrews 7:25-27

Day 16 - II Corinthians 7:9-10

Day 17 - I John 2:28

Day 18 - I Corinthians 13:11-12

Day 19 - I John 1:5-10

Day 20 - Hebrews 12:1-3

Day 21 - Titus 3:3-7

Day 22 - I Peter 1:22-23

Day 23 - I Timothy 1:14-17

Day 24 - Ephesians 6:11

Day 25 - Hebrews 2:1-4

Day 26 - II Corinthians 13:5

Day 27 - Ephesians 2:1-7

Day 28 - Ephesians 2:8-10

Day 29 - I Peter 3:10-12

Day 30 - Luke 15:20-24

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.





Crescent Roll Breakfast Casserole

"This easy and yummy one-pan Crescent Roll Breakfast Casserole is oven baked along with layers of ground sausage, eggs, and cheese. A delicious brunch recipe is filled with amazing flavors, textures and is a large crowd-pleaser! This casserole makes for the perfect Easter dish!"

Recipe by: Joyous Apron on Joyousapron.com

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz crescent roll, *one tube*
- 1 lbs ground breakfast sausage
- 8 large eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups cheese, *shredded Mozzarella, Monterey jack, Colby jack, or Cheddar*
- Cooking oil spray



Prep Time: 5 mins.
Cook Time: 40 mins.
Total Time: 45 mins.
Servings: 12
Calories: 315kcal

DIRECTIONS

1. Pre-heat oven to 375.
2. Using a skillet, sear ground breakfast on the stovetop. Break sausage into small pieces. Once fully cooked, set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, whisk to combine eggs, milk, salt, and black pepper.
4. Grease a 9'x13' casserole dish. Roll out crescent rolls and place at the bottom of the dish.
5. Top crescent rolls with ground sausage, then pour egg mixture over the sausage. Spread shredded cheese all over the top of casserole.
6. Bake in oven for 35 minutes.
7. Remove from oven, and let it cool for 5 minutes. Slice and serve!

Tips, Tricks & Questions:

Instead of sausage—what can I use?

You can use crumbled cooked bacon pieces, Canadian bacon or ham. If you use Canadian bacon or ham—you do NOT have to cook those meats first, so it will save even more time!

What if my crescent roll breakfast casserole is still gooey in the middle after 35 minutes?

Actual oven temperatures vary, so try cooking for longer if needed.

The top of my casserole is browning before the insides are cooked, what do I do?

If the top is browning but the insides are still not cooked, consider covering your casserole dish with aluminum foil or move your oven racks and/or casserole dish lower in oven.

Can I freeze this casserole to enjoy later?

Yes, this will freeze really well. Freeze in an airtight container, and bring to a complete defrost before reheating.

How do I reheat this breakfast casserole?

If reheating the entire casserole, cover with aluminum foil and reheat in the oven for 20-30 minutes at 350 or until insides are warm. If reheating a single or smaller piece, I typically reheat in the microwave for a few minutes.

RECIPE





APRIL 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 <small>9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build- ing</small>	4 PSC Group, 1:30-4	5 <small>9AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building</small>
6 Free-will Lenten Breakfast, 9:30am	7 PSC Group, 10-2	8	9	10 Ministries Coun- cil Meeting, 6:30pm <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</small>	11 PSC Group, 1:30-4	12 <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.</small>
13 Free-will Lenten Breakfast, 9:30am Palm Sunday Service, 10:30am	14 PSC Group, 10-2	15	16	17 Holy Thursday Service, 6:30pm <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</small>	18 PSC Group, 1:30-4 Good Friday Service, 8pm	19 Monthly Pan- cake Breakfast, 9am @ FJUMC <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday</small>
20 Easter Service, 10:30am	21 PSC Group, 10-2	22	23	24 <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</small>	25 PSC Group, 1:30-4	26 Roast Beef Din- ner Drive-Thru & Dine-in, 4-6pm <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.</small>
27	28 PSC Group, 10-2	29	30			



In April, FJUMC will be collecting non-perishable items (*canned fruit, vegetables, soups*) to replenish the Blessing Box at Cradle & Beyond 2.0.



We will also be collecting items for the 2nd Annual Oswego County Community Baby Shower on May 8th in Fulton, NY. This is a FREE event designed for new and expecting parents!



Please bring in any baby items, including clothing, diapers, wipes, bottles, formula, blankets, rattles, etc. (anything you would bring to a baby shower).

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 Hours & Location:

Tuesday—Friday
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
8396 Morgan Road
Clay NY 13041

Contact Information:

Phone: (315) 652-9186
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