



Pastor's **Page**



The Stepping Stone **May 2025**



Blowing The Silver Trumpets

10 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Make two silver trumpets. Of hammered work, you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp. 3 And when both are blown, all the congregation shall gather to you at the entrance of the tent of meeting. 4 But if they blow only one, then the chiefs, the heads of the tribes of Israel, shall gather themselves to you.

I awoke the one night to an Amber Alert on my cell phone. It was not only on my phone, but Mary's and Kiah's too. Then Kovu, our dog, who was sound asleep, woke up and howled. You can imagine the chaos that stirred in the house that night. Alarms aren't always a bad thing. Smoke detectors save lives, and sirens of ambulances, police cars, and fire trucks signal us to pull to the side of the road so that they can get through. In hospitals, when someone is in distress and a CODE alarm goes off, the nurses and doctors come running with a crash cart and all the necessary supplies to save the individual's life.

The work of God in scripture is all about God sounding the alarm to the people of Israel that they are going in the wrong direction. Yet this passage in Numbers describes how the Israelites should break camp or approach the tent of meeting.

This morning, Kiah texted me from school that they were to shelter in place. I soon got a text from the school that all was clear, and the students were safe. From time to time, we all need instruction on how to break camp and move forward in this life. Sometimes, we need instructions on approaching the tent of meeting, where God resides.

In one of the churches I served, there was a man who would stand outside the church every Sunday, and that was as far as he would go. I asked him one Sunday, "Why don't you come in and sit with your friends and family?" His reply, "If you knew what a sinner I am, you would understand that the church would fall in. on itself." I felt bad for the man and did not know what to say. One Sunday, he sat in the back pew crying throughout the service. He was still there as the service closed, and I had finished receiving individuals. Still crying.

I sat next to him and said nothing. After about fifteen minutes, he began to speak and share his heart and his guilt and shame. I took his hand and prayed for God's grace over his life and forgiveness. He had come into the sanctuary that day because his grandson was playing the trumpet as part of the worship service, and it broke down walls of suffering that he had been carrying for a lifetime.

Nothing excludes us from God. God doesn't ask for perfect people but imperfect people who can hear the alarm and rise to the occasion. The cell phones were going off in the middle of the night to alert us to a missing child. We could do nothing about that Amber alert but stop and pray; maybe that's what we were called to do in that moment?

Many people think that they must be perfect to come to church and enter the sanctuary. That is not true. God never asks you to be a perfect person, but a person who is willing to stop for a moment and listen to the words of grace spoken by Jesus, "Peace be with you."

The next time you encounter a police officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, nurse, doctor or pastor thank them for answering the call.

The alarms are sounding will you answer the call?

In grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Daniel J. Bradley". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid.

Rev. Daniel J. Bradley



Please join us to celebrate Kiah's High School Graduation and to wish her luck as she embarks on the next journey and heads off to college!

Kiah Bradley's Graduation Party

**Saturday, June 28, 2025
1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.**

**Kindly RSVP by June 15th
to (716) 485-6250 or
mkdjbradley@live.com**

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



VISION

Children in our community will be healthy and food secure and hunger will not get in the way of their education.

MISSION

To mobilize the community, individuals and resources to provide food for kids in need.

"Change for Change" Mission

Change for Change brought in \$75 in April for Rev. Sai Shwe and The Family of Blessings Farm, LLC, which they will use to purchase vegetable plants.

Our May's Change for Change, will be donated to Erin's Angels.



At the end of the 2023-24 School year, it was estimated that in the Phoenix School District 57% of their student body were "food insecure" – meaning if they aren't getting their breakfast and lunch in school, they may be missing meals on the weekend. More than 120 food-filled backpacks are delivered to students for the weekend. 100% of the money raised goes directly to purchasing food for the students. In conjunction with the Change mission, we will also be collecting individual food items for our monthly food pantry to support Erin's Angels Weekend Backpack program.

Thank you to all who contributed! - Linda Raulli

What's Happening

MAY:

May 4th—Native American Ministries Sunday
May 10th—Chicken BBQ Drive-Thru, 11am-until sold out @ FJUMC
May 10th—Hanging Plant Sale, 9am-sold out @ Clay Historical Association
May 11th—Mother's Day
May 17th—Pancake Breakfast, 9am @ FJUMC
May 17th– May 24th—Bucket Sale @ Cradle & Beyond
May 25th—United Methodist Student Day
May 26th—Memorial Day
May 27th—SPPRC Committee Meeting, 6:30pm @ FJUMC
June 6th & 7th—Beetlejuice Jr., 7pm @ FJUMC
June 8th—Beetlejuice Jr., 2pm @ FJUMC
June 13th & 14th—Beetlejuice Jr., 7pm @ FJUMC
June 15th—Beetlejuice Jr., 2pm @ FJUMC
June 28th—Kiah Bradley's High School Graduation Party, 1-4pm @ FJUMC

CHICKEN BBQ DRIVE-THRU

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025
11:00 A.M. - UNTIL SOLD OUT!

WHOLE DINNER

Includes 1/2 BBQ chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans, and roll **\$12.00**

HALF DINNER

Includes 1/2 BBQ chicken and a roll..... **\$8.00**

FAITH JOURNEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8396 MORGAN RD. CLAY, NY 13041

Getty Stock

Monthly Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 9:00 am in the upper Café area

ALL ARE WELCOME, BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY!

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



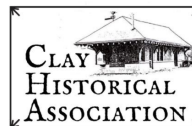
Hanging Plant Sale

Mother's Day Weekend

Saturday, May 10, 2025
9:00 AM—Sold Out

\$25 each basket or 2 for \$40

Add a touch of beauty to your home and support the Clay Historical Association! We're holding a Mother's Day, hanging plant flower sale!



Clay Historical Association
 4939 Rt. 31 Clay, NY 13041

BEETLEJUICE JR.



Fri. June 6th @ 7pm
 Sat. June 7th @ 7pm
 Sun. June 8th @ 2pm

Fri. June 13th @ 7pm
 Sat. June 14th @ 7pm
 Sun. June 15th @ 2pm



The ghost-with-the-most comes to the stage in Beetlejuice JR., the frightfully funny musical based on the beloved motion picture turned Broadway phenomenon.

General Admission \$20 | Senior \$15 | Student \$10
 Ticketor.com/GNAC

8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041



Cradle & Beyond 2.0

7778 Brewerton Road

Store hours:

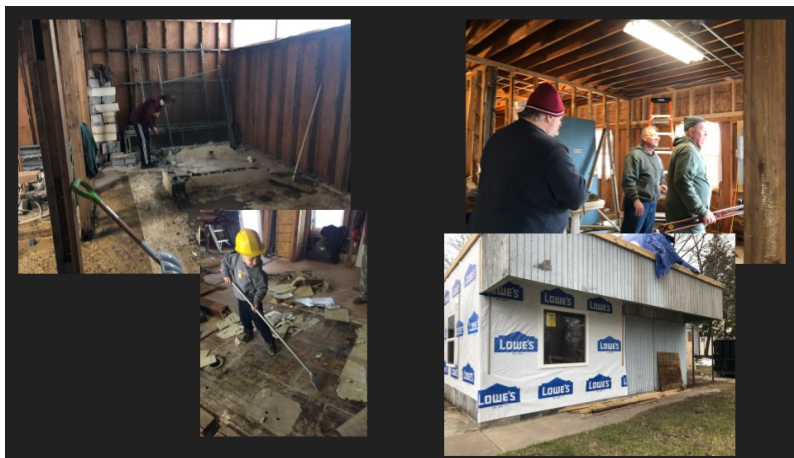
Tuesday 4 pm - 7 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm
Thursday 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

Contact Information:

Phone: (315) 980-8004
Email: Cradleandbeyond2@gmail.com
7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212

Happy May & Happy Anniversary!

Great news, C&B has been part of the North Syracuse community for 20 years in 2025. From what we can tell, the store got its start back in 2005 in the basement of Andrews Memorial Church. We've stayed true to our mission and vision, but it's clear that C&B's purpose has grown and changed over the years. We still ensure that every member of our community has access to affordable, quality clothing and essential items but we do so while building strong, respectful relationships with our customers, volunteers, and partners.



Together, we create a welcoming space rooted in dignity, connection, and shared commitment to community well-being. Look below to see where we started from.

Beth was able to present and share about C&B to women of Liverpool UMC - women in faith - it was so fun. Beth was invited and looking forward to doing another presentation in Baldwinsville.

Please reach out if you know of an organization that would like to

hear about CB and all that we do - we love spreading the word.



Hope you noticed, one of our customers - Lou, came and power washed the entire CB campus last week - the siding, windows and ramps are so clean :) Sandy R, Sandy H, Judy and Donna M will be attending the Oswego County Baby Shower on May 8th and sharing gift bags with the mothers to be or new moms. This is the second time that CB was invited and can't wait to share this experience with others.



Everyone is asking, **we will be having our next sale May 17th - May 24th.** As our Bucket Sale is so popular and we have plenty of merchandise to turn over - our sale this month will be a bucket sale. Brooklyn Pickle donated more buckets to our store - they will be cleaned and brought in for this upcoming sale.

Keep being amazing - we are so blessed to have you as part of our CB family!



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - MAY - "BLESSING OTHERS"

"The Lord has said to Abram . . . "I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." - Genesis 12:1-2

Happy Mother's Day to

Biological moms	Stepmoms	Foster moms
Those who have lost moms	Adoptive moms	Moms who have lost children
Those with strained mother relationships	Those wishing to be moms	Those who have taken on a mom role

MAY

Every April, I always forget that Administrative Professionals Week is at the end of the month, and I'll come in one day to a bunch of amazing gifts from everyone on my desk. A huge THANK YOU for all of the gifts, love and recognition! Thank you for the constant reminders of how grateful and appreciative you are of my hard work and effort! I want you to know how much that means to me.

It's very special that people can see how much I care through the effort and work I put into everything I do! I love you all at Faith Journey UMC very much and I'm honored to be your Administrative professional!

SPECIAL SUNDAY

Native American Ministries Sunday—May 4, 2025

United Methodists are called to recognize and honor the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and church. The United Methodist Church acknowledges a gap in understanding Native American life and culture, while affirming the sacredness of Indigenous peoples, their languages, their unique identities and their contributions to the church and the world. Last year, almost \$240,000 was raised to support these vital ministries through the Native American Ministries offering:

- ⇒ **Fifty percent** of the funds collected stay within the annual conference to support Native American ministries.
- ⇒ **Twenty-five percent** of donations fund scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry at any approved theological school.
- ⇒ **Twenty-five percent** of donations collected are allocated to develop impactful programs. These funds enable the UMC to collaborate with established Native ministries to create new initiatives for Native American communities. One of the beautiful things about The United Methodist Church is that, together, we can accomplish far more than we could on our own. Together, we celebrate the voice and ministry of Native Americans worldwide.

United Methodist Student Day—May 25, 2025

United Methodist Churches are encouraged to observe **United Methodist Student Day** on any Sunday in May to align with graduation ceremonies. Traditionally observed on the last Sunday of November, this Special Sunday was moved to May by the 2024 General Conference. United Methodist Student Day is observed to emphasize the value of education. Contributions received through this special Sunday support scholarships for United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. Contributions serve as a practical expression of support, providing both financial assistance and spiritual encouragement. Thanks to your generosity, over \$200,000 was raised last year to fund scholarships for United Methodist students.

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 - 2 Corinthians 12:10

Day 2 - Philippians 2:14-15

Day 3 - Philippians 3:7-8

Day 4 - Philippians 4:11-12

Day 5 - Job 9:25, 27-28

Day 6 - Isaiah 5:8

Day 7 - Hebrews 13:5

Day 8 - Proverbs 15:16

Day 9 - Matthew 6:20

Day 10 - 1 Timothy 6:6-7

Day 11 - Matthew 6:21

Day 12 - 1 Timothy 6:10

Day 13 - Colossians 3:15

Day 14 - Proverbs 4:23

Day 15 - Psalm 37:16

Day 16 - Matthew 6:24

Day 17 - Galatians 5:22-23

Day 18 - Proverbs 15:13

Day 19 - Ecclesiastes 2:11

Day 20 - Ecclesiastes 2:20-21

Day 21 - Proverbs 17:22

Day 22 - Luke 12:15

Day 23 - Psalm 16:11

Day 24 - Luke 12:20-21

Day 25 - Psalm 118:24

Day 26 - Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

Day 27 - Psalm 4:7

Day 28 - Isaiah 55:2

Day 29 - 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Day 30 - Isaiah 58:11

Day 31 - Romans 14:17

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





RecipeCorner



Strawberry Cinnamon Muffins

"This super easy Strawberry Muffin recipe only takes a few minutes for delicious fluffy muffins filled with fresh strawberries along with cinnamon and vanilla to start your day."

Recipe by: Dan Mikesell on Bakingfortwo.com



INGREDIENTS

Wet Ingredients:

- 1 cup strawberries
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Dry Ingredients:

- 1 3/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder, preferably aluminum-free
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Topping:

- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Prep Time: 15 mins.

Cook Time: 20 mins.

Total Time: 35 mins.

Servings: 12 standard-sized muffins

Calories: 156kcal/1 muffin

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375. Prep muffin pan with paper muffin liners for 12 muffins. Clean and chop strawberries to about 1/2 inch size.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together wet ingredients: vegetable oil, milk, egg, and vanilla.
3. Combine dry in a large bowl: flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon. Then add the chopped strawberries and coat.
4. Mix topping of sugar and cinnamon.
5. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix until combined. Mix by hand until there is no dry left but do not over-mix.
6. Add the batter to a muffin tin, divided into 12 standard-size muffin cups. Fill about 2/3 full, then sprinkle 1/4 teaspoon of the sugar and cinnamon mixture to the top of each muffin.
7. Bake until a toothpick comes out clean— about 20 minutes. Move to a cooling rack and cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Tips, Tricks & Questions:

About the Strawberries:

Test one of your berries, if they are not sweet—bump the sugar up a bit. If the berry is very moist, dice a bit smaller and if dry, then they can be diced a bit bigger. It's important to use 1/2 inch as the average; if berries are too big, the moisture in the berries will create pockets from the steam.

How to keep Muffins Fluffy:

Have your eggs, butter and milk at room temperature, they will come together smoother and trap air better. Don't overmix the batter— it's OK to have slightly lumpy mix. Use fresh baking powder since it can be outdated, baking soda does not expire. Be sure the oven is preheated accurately before baking muffins.

Storing Muffins:

If you have leftover muffins, store them in an airtight container at room temperature for up to three days after baking for best taste, texture, and freshness. They can also be stored in the refrigerator for a week or in the freezer for up to two months—thaw overnight in the fridge.

Can I use other Berries with this recipe?

Yes, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries will work best with this exact recipe, simply substitute the berry!

RECIPE





MAY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	3
4 <i>Native American Ministries Sunday</i>	5 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	6	7	8 <i>9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build- ing</i>	9 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	10 <i>Hanging Plant Sale, 9am-sold out @ Clay Historical Association</i> <i>CHICKEN BBQ DRIVE-THRU, 11am-sold out @ FJUMC</i>
11 <i>Mother's Day</i>	12 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	13	14	15 <i>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</i>	16 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	17 <i>Pancake Break- fast, 9am @ FJUMC</i> <i>Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-2pm</i>
18	19 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	20 <i>Bucket Sale @ C&B, 4pm-7pm</i>	21 <i>Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm</i>	22 <i>Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-4pm</i> <i>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</i>	23 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	24 <i>Bucket Sale @ C&B, 10am-2pm</i> <i>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</i>
25 <i>United Method- ist Student Day</i>	26 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	27 <i>SPPRC Com- mittee Meeting, 6:30 pm @ FJUMC</i>	28	29 <i>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</i>	30 <i>PSC Group, 1:30-4</i>	31 <i>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.</i>



For MAY, FJUMC will be collecting individually packed food items

(crackers, pretzels, chips, cereal, ready to eat pasta or rice cups, oatmeal, fruit snacks, granola bars, fruit cups, Bumble Bee Lunch Kits) **for Erin's Angels Summer Backpack Program.**

Thank you for your support!

Individually packed food is needed



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
Jake Melnyk - Musician
Sara Mertz - Office Manager
Sean Townsend - Custodian