



Pastor's Page



The Stepping Stone **November 2025**

The power of gratitude...

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these, put-on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. -- Colossians 3:12-15.

It's easy to get cynical in this world today. So much is going on that seems unfathomable; yet here we are in this place and time for God's purposes, not our own. There are times when I want to think we are all traveling the same road, just trying to figure out this thing called 'life'; however, we are not. Our life experiences take us on different roads, but they are always paved with God's grace, and at times, as we travel, we intersect with one another on our faith journey.

That's the most wisdom I have in this minute, perhaps it is more than enough. After all these years on this 'terrestrial ball' as William Shakespeare described our home (earth), I am dumbfounded when, as human beings and as followers of Christ, we get so confused about what is fact and what is fiction. It is becoming harder to distinguish between the two. What I do know is an absolute fact: God's grace never changes, God's love never changes, and most importantly, we are not alone. We have God and each other.

One of my favorite television series of all time is *The West Wing*, because it shows the humanity of the people directly involved in the work of the presidency. In season two, there is a scene in which Josh Lyman, Deputy Chief of Staff, goes on a tirade, yelling at the President in the Oval Office. After Josh is excused, Leo McGary, Chief of Staff, meets him in his office, and as Josh is trying to explain what happened, McGary says, "Josh, I am not sure you were fully conscious when you were saying it." The back story about that scene is that Josh had barely survived an assassination attempt on the President and his staff. He was experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD).

It's hard to go through life without experiencing some form of PTSD. Life-changing, life threatening events can cost us our peace and sanity, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. The only way I know to deal with the messes that life throws at us is to express gratitude to God for carrying us through the toughest parts of our lives.

There are times when I don't want to express gratitude. Too often, my gratitude looks like me shouting at God—and that's okay. God's got big shoulders and can handle whatever I throw at God. But, after the shouting, there comes a calm in which I remember what my best friend reminds me all the time; there are two times to praise God: "When we feel like it and when we don't." I turn on praise music and worship right where I am—most of the time, in my car. We must remember that, while not all of us are on the same road at the same time, our lives do intersect. All our roads look vastly different because of our life experiences. Those streets, highways, and roads that we walk are paved with grace.

It is that grace that brings us to God, and grace will carry us in our times of need when we are convinced that we can't go any further. When all seems lost and we fall to our knees crying out to God, grace appears in unexpected ways. Grace in the form of family, friends, just another traveler on the road, or perhaps it's the person you are sure is your enemy.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we need to be focused on our footsteps, not on the distractions of this world. That is, I am, sad to say, often more complicated than it appears. It is so easy to allow our ears, hearts, and minds to be ‘filled’ with so much rubbish that it is paralyzing.

The only thing that breaks that paralysis is gratitude and the proclamation of the mystery of faith: “Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.”

I know it seems dark right now in this world; I know the emotional exhaustion of the day-in, day-out hate and divisiveness; however, I know this is a 100% fact: “God’s got this!” Don’t lose faith in the God of the universe, who knows right where we are in this place and time for God’s purposes. This is a time for thanksgiving—a time for gratitude; yes, even in the darkness.

We will begin Thanksgiving week on Sunday, November 23rd, by packing Thanksgiving bags after worship. We will offer grace to families we may never meet, not just because it is the right thing to do, but because they are part of the body of Christ.

Remember these words as you gather with your families and friends this Thanksgiving:

“And above all these put-on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Daniel J. Bradley



Dear Friends,

Thank you for being an extraordinary supporter of Brown Memorial over the past year. Your partnership has been a shining example of hope and compassion, and together, we are fulfilling our mission to be a beacon of light for all on the Westside of Syracuse. Your generosity has been the lifeblood of our Sunday Community Dinners, where we provide warm meals and create a space for connection, transformation, and the undeniable love of Jesus Christ.

Allow me to share a story that captures the heart of our ministry: I recently met a woman who began attending our weekly dinner. After hearing her story and offering encouragement, she offered to help with our clothing ministry. She then started attending worship, became a member of the church on Easter Sunday this year, and now volunteers in the pantry.

Our Community Dinners are about so much more than food—they are about rekindling hope, restoring faith, and building relationships that testify to God’s boundless love. None of this would be possible without your continued support. As we look forward to what God will do next, I invite you to partner with us again to make an even more significant impact. I have attached guidelines for serving meals and a schedule for selecting dates to sponsor a dinner. The cost of sponsoring a dinner is approximately \$200. Whether you choose to provide a meal or make a monetary contribution, your gift will touch hearts and transform lives. Because of you, children laugh, families heal, and individuals rediscover their purpose in Christ. Your generosity is more than support—it is a testament to the power of God working through you.

Thank you for walking this journey with us and making a profound difference. We are shining God’s light into every corner of our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

With heartfelt gratitude, Rev. Nola Anderson, 315-506-2838 (cell phone)

Treasurer's Report

From the Treasurer

We are at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2025. Below are the updated income and expenses for that quarter. I have included all three quarters so that you can compare them.

Offerings are fairly consistent, with summertime donations slightly lower. This is often seen in the 3rd quarter as people are vacationing more in the summer months. Please note the additional support received again from C&B 2.0.

Facilities expense is misleading because wintertime utilities are typically higher, but all utility bills were not paid until we received help from C&B 2.0 later in the year. A large mission donation came in near the end of September and was not paid out until October, so you can expect the 4th quarter Mission Expenses to be higher than that quarter's income.

Shared ministry contributions are at \$5,968--the highest amount we have contributed in many years, thanks mostly to monthly contributions from C&B 2.0. The income from our thrift store was counted into the calculations for shared ministries, so the store is making monthly contributions based on the conference calculations. Our assessment from the Upper New York Conference is \$30,072 for 2025.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	July-Sept
Offering, rentals, interest	\$34,344	\$33,807	\$32,246
Support from C&B 2.0	1,500	6,573	4,774
Miscellaneous	1,412	1,174	579
Missions	<u>1,400</u>	<u>2,004</u>	<u>2,197</u>
Total Income	\$38,656	\$43,558	\$39,796
Payroll	\$26,834	\$27,430	\$25,655
Upper New York Conference	6,814	6,814	7,014
Facilities Expense (Utilities, etc)	3,792	8,524	6,576
Insurance	229	1,910	229
Missions	500	2,333	586
Miscellaneous	<u>181</u>	<u>1,007</u>	<u>167</u>
Total Expenses	\$38,350	\$48,018	\$40,227



South Sudan Health Project Update

The support for South Sudan Health Project has grown to include churches and individuals in many states as well as the founding churches in Central New York. The 8 health care workers faithfully report each month on the number and kinds of illnesses they treat. Support comes to \$4,075 per quarter (3 months), which covers the health care workers, medicines and the local coordinator. I am happy to report that the quarterly payments are up to date. In addition, an extra \$800 was collected to purchase a new computer for the local coordinator so that he can better take care of business in South Sudan, as well as communicate with our local team. Thank you for your local support which contributes to the success of this mission.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Raulli

What's Happening

NOVEMBER:

November 2nd—All Saints Worship Service, 10:30am @ FJUMC

November 9th—Faith Journey 10th year anniversary
November 9th—Faithful Meals: Make & Take Ministry, noon, after worship service

November 16th—Buffalo Bills Football Sunday, 1pm @ C&B Building

November 23rd—Laity-led worship service, Thanksgiving Bags will be put together afterwards

November 25th—Thanksgiving Worship Service, 7pm @ FJUMC

November 26th & 27th—C&B closed for Thanksgiving

November 28th & 29th—C&B open for Black Friday Weekend Sale

December 20th—Annual Holiday Party, 2:30-5:30pm @ Faith Journey UMC, Fellowship Hall

December 24th-January 1st—C&B Closed for Holidays, reopening on 1/3/2026

JOIN US FOR

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Join us for Thanksgiving Worship Service on Tuesday, November 25th, 7:00 p.m. at Faith Journey UMC.

HOLIDAY PARTY

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL C&B AND FJUMC HOLIDAY PARTY!

Saturday, December 20, 2025 | 2:30 PM—5:30 PM

***MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

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



Come join us for Buffalo Bills Sundays, snacks and laughter at C&B building (1:00 p.m.)

(7778 Brewerton Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212)



Below are the opponents that the Bills will play:

11/16—Buccaneers
 12/14—Patriots



Faithful Meals: Make & Take Ministry

Join us as we come together in fellowship to prepare meals that nourish both body and spirit. Faithful Meals is about caring for one another—making meals to take home, share with neighbors, or offer to someone who could use a little extra kindness. Everyone is welcome around the table as we cook, connect, and strengthen our community.

Mark Your Calendar!

When: Sunday, November 9, 2025

Time: Noon (after worship)

Where: FJUMC kitchen
 (8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041)

What's on the Menu:

Baked Spaghetti Pie

All ingredients, supplies, and the recipe will be provided.

Why Join Us?

- ◆ Have fun in the kitchen
- ◆ Learn a new recipe
- ◆ Take home a ready-to-enjoy meal

Cost: No charge — a free-will offering will be accepted.

To ensure we have enough supplies, please RSVP by emailing: **FJOFFICE @ FJUMC.ORG** or Text Beth at (315) 657-5701

Cook. Connect. Care. All Around the Table!



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

November 2025

It is so hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us. Cradle and Beyond has been doing great things in 2025. We continue to improve lives and change lives.



I hear it often, the passion, commitment, drive and enthusiasm that we share does not go unnoticed. We have worked together to bring about an amazing ministry of lifting others up - this isn't just seen in the doors of C&B but in the community as well. Seeing customers while out in the community, and having them greet us or overhearing them share to someone how great our store is - not because we sell cheap merchandise but because of what happens to the person as soon as they enter our store. It starts with a smile and greeting from the front desk, to accepting donations with a smile on our face and acknowledging our appreciation in accepting these gifts. It's hearing the stories behind the donations and taking the time to listen about a spouse or loved one that passed away and that the person chooses us to bring the donations to. And finally, packing their 'goods' and sharing a laugh or smile with them.

On those days that we get 'overrun with donations' or have a rough moment with someone - you still provide a smile and welcoming nature and for this I am forever honored to be part of the C&B family.



As the holidays are coming - so are some changes in the calendar. **We will be closed on Wednesday 11/26 and Thursday 11/27 but open Friday 11/28 10:00 - 4:00 and Saturday 11/29 10:00 - 2:00 for a special Black Friday / Weekend Sale. We'll be closed 12/24 - 1/1; reopening 1/3/2026** - this allows us to do some deep cleaning, put some touches on the new addition and restock merchandise.



We will have our annual holiday party on Saturday 12/20 at 2:30 - 5:30 at Faith Journey UMC in Fellowship Hall. (8396 Morgan Rd. Clay, NY 13041)



As for our new donation center - we have gotten the excavating and stone foundation laid - we are waiting on the concrete plant to give us a date they can deliver concrete - planning for this to happen on a Monday so that we are ready to open on a Tuesday evening - hoping by December we have a new concrete pad and entry way into the store.

***Keep on Keeping on and doing great things.
You are all amazing!***

hello NOVEMBER

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER - "ALWAYS THANKFUL"

"Give thanks to [the Lord]; bless his name." - Psalm 100:4



NOVEMBER

As we prepare to gather with friends and family to celebrate Thanksgiving, I feel extra grateful and blessed because of the kind and loving people surrounding me. The support I've reached from family and church members over the last few years has made such a difference in my life and I try to pass along kindness and support to others in hope they can feel the love that I receive on a daily basis. I pray for all those this holiday season that are struggling emotionally, physically and financially. Let's try to give thanks and support others in hopes of making the world a better place, even if it's just our little corner of the community.

"Change for Change" Mission For November



For October, we collected \$70 in donations for UNICEF. Thank you for helping us support UNICEF's response to hundreds of emergencies and complex humanitarian situations every single year throughout the world.



For November, the Change for Change will be to collect funds for a **Christmas project**. The specific project has not been decided on yet, but this will give us funds available early in December so our donation can happen before Christmas.



To Pastor Rev. Daniel Bradley, the entire staff and the congregation of Faith Journey UMC,

The world's a whole lot better place because of people like you, who bring so much happiness with the nice things they do, and with your recent thoughtfulness still very much in mind, this is meant to bring a thank-you of the very warmest kind!

I am writing to you with sincere thanks and gratitude for all that you did in hosting the guest musicians for the Annual 9/11 memorial observance. It is my hope that through music, we can remember 9/11 as a day in which we decided to achieve peace to honor the memory of those we lost. Wishing you peace and love in the days, weeks and months ahead.—John Harnois

NOVEMBER SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN



with a thankful heart,

I PRAISE

the lord ♡



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 - Psalm 145:18

Day 2 - Colossians 4:2

Day 3 - 1 Thess 5:16-18

Day 4 - Hebrews 12:28-29

Day 5 - Psalm 118:1

Day 6 - Ezra 3:11

Day 7 - Psalm 106:1

Day 8 - Hebrews 13:15

Day 9 - Colossians 3:16

Day 10 - 1 Chronicles 16:8

Day 11 - Psalm 9:1-2

Day 12 - Philippians 4:6

Day 13 - 1 Samuel 12:24

Day 14 - Psalm 32:11

Day 15 - Romans 8:28

Day 16 - Ephesians 5:20

Day 17 - 1 Thess 1:2

Day 18 - Psalm 95:2

Day 19 - Isaiah 12:4-5

Day 20 - Zephaniah 3:17

Day 21 - Romans 5:1

Day 22 - John 6:11

Day 23 - Philippians 1:3-5

Day 24 - Numbers 6:24-26

Day 25 - Psalm 136:1-3

Day 26 - John 3:16

Day 27 - Jeremiah 30:19

Day 28 - Revelation 11:17

Day 29 - 1 Timothy 1:12

Day 30 - Daniel 2:23

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.





PUMPKIN S'MORES COOKIES

"Pumpkin s'mores cookies are a seasonal autumn treat that blends the cozy flavors of pumpkin spice with the classic campfire components of a s'more. The result is a soft, chewy cookies that is gooey and melty in the center."

Recipe by: Anna Painter

www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/a61807/pumpkin-smores-cookies-recipes/

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) plus 2 tablespoon, unsalted butter
- 2 1/2 all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2/3 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 (4 oz.) bittersweet chocolate bar
- 3 (1/5 oz.) Hershey's milk chocolate bars, divided
- 5 graham cracker sheets, divided
- 7 large marshmallows, halved
- 28 mini marshmallows

Prep Time: 10 mins.

Total Time: 1 hr. 50 mins.

Yields: 14

DIRECTIONS

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Transfer to a large bowl and let cool slightly.
2. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, whisk flour, pumpkin pie spice, salt, baking powder, and baking soda.
3. In the bowl with the melted butter, add egg yolk, brown sugar, pumpkin puree, and granulated sugar, then whisk until combined. Add dry ingredients and stir until just combined.
4. Coarsely chop bittersweet chocolate, 2 milk chocolate bars, and 3 graham cracker sheets. Add to bowl and stir with a spatula to combine. Refrigerate until chilled, about 20 minutes. (This will make the dough less sticky and easier to scoop)
5. Scoop out 14 (1/4-c.) balls (about 72 g. each) and arrange on 2 parchment-lined baking sheets, spacing 2" apart. Freeze until firm, 30 to 40 minutes.
6. Meanwhile, place a rack in center of oven; preheat to 375 degrees. Coarsely chop remaining 1 milk chocolate bar and 2 graham cracker sheets.
7. Bake 1 sheet of cookies for 9 minutes. Remove from oven and top each cookie with a large marshmallow half, 2 mini marshmallows, and a few pieces of milk chocolate and graham crackers, gently pressing with your fingers to adhere. Continue to bake until puffed and golden brown around the edges and marshmallows are lightly browned, 4 to 5 minutes. (Any marshmallows that have slid off can be nudged back on with a spoon)
8. Let cool on a baking sheet 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack and let cool completely. Repeat with remaining sheet of cookies.

The Pumpkin: Canned pumpkin adds a lot of moisture, which is lovely in a quick bread but can make cookie dough very wet. Here we use some pumpkin—2/3 cup—as well as both pumpkin spice and plenty of dark brown sugar to amplify the pumpkin spice flavors.

The S'mores: Using a mix of bittersweet chocolate and Hershey's milk chocolate gives a more balanced flavor than using the milk chocolate on its own. Chopped graham crackers are added both to the dough and on top for an extra crunch. We tried using marshmallows in the batter, but they melted into the cookies during baking, even when frozen first. I found that both halved jumbo marshmallows and mini marshmallows on top part way through the baking process gives the marshmallows just enough time to get gooey and brown without completely melting away.

Not sure what to do with the leftover pumpkin puree?

Make pumpkin spice blondies, vegan pumpkin spice lattes, or pumpkin zucchini bread!

RECIPE



NOVEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 All Saints Worship Service, 10:30 am	3 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	4	5	6 <small>9AM-12PM - Workday @ New Build- ing</small>	7 PSC Karaoke, 1:30-4	8 <small>9AM - 12 PM - Workday @ New Building</small>
9 Faith Journey UMC 10 yr. An- niversary Faithful Meals: Make & Take, 12pm	10 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	11	12	13 <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</small>	14 PSC Karaoke, 1:30-4	15 Pancake Break- fast, 9am @ FJUMC <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building.</small>
16 Buffalo Bills Football Sunday, 1pm @ C&B	17 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i>	18	19	20 <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</small>	21 PSC Karaoke, 1:30-4	22 <small>9AM - 12PM - Workday @ New Building</small>
23 Laity-led worship service, 10:30am, Thanksgiving Bags put together after- wards	24 <i>PSC Group, 10-2</i> Ministries Coun- cil Meeting, 6:30pm @ FJUMC	25 Thanksgiving Worship Service, 7pm	26 C&B Closed	27 Thanksgiving Day C&B Closed	28 PSC Karaoke, 1:30-4 C&B Open, Black Friday Sale, 10am-4pm	29 C&B Open, Black Friday Sale, 10am-2pm
30						

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



For the month of **NOVEMBER** Food Pantry, we will be collecting items for Thanksgiving Bags to distribute to local families in need before Thanksgiving Day. We will collect all items on tables in the sanctuary from now until Sunday, Nov. 23rd, then we will put them together after a laity-led worship service.

- Items include:**
- **Boxed potatoes**
 - **Stuffing mix and gravy**
 - **Canned vegetables and fruits**
 - **Dessert mix**
 - **Juice**
 - **\$10 meat donation in envelope**



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