

The Visitor

February
2023



Senior Pastor

Rev. William Mudge 315-292-0850

Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gordon Knapp 315-200-1250

Music Director

Secretary

Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

Bookkeeper

Rod Porter 315-247-7426

Treasurer

George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

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Church Office: 315-635-6442

Fax: 315-635-6963

Normal Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

E-mail: secretary@bvillefirstumc.org

Website: www.bvillefirstumc.org

PLEASE NOTE:

Articles for the **MARCH**
must be submitted to the church office
by **February 15th**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)

Every Congregation in the Upper NY Conference of the UM Church adopted a Discipleship Making Pathway and Plan in 2022. Ours was adopted at our Charge Conference on November 29, 2022. Our Disciple Making plan has 4 points:

#1 – Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

This is the first step in the journey of every disciple – we will begin here.

#2 – Are you growing in Biblical Literacy?

The Bible is our Book of Books. Every growing Disciple should be growing deeper and wider in their understanding of The Word.

#3 – Do you know what your Spiritual Gifts Are?

We all have natural gifting and Spiritual gifts. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are, and how they can be used in building the church and the Kingdom of God? We are making disciples who make disciples.

#4 – Can you identify how your gifts are being used in the fellowship of the Baldwinsville United Methodist Church, and in the world outside of our walls?

Each disciple should be able to identify their ministry (gifts used within the local church) and their mission (gifts used in service to the world). We will endeavor to train, equip, and deploy disciples for ministry and mission. We will continue to pray and focus on these four points throughout 2023 as we endeavor to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

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We will have recognition of committees/teams, their new members, and leaders during the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 12.

* * *

Sunday, February 12 is **Souper Bowl Sunday!** Please bring food or a monetary donation for the Food Pantry.

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Please continue to hold Pastor Bill and his family in your prayers. His personal/spiritual leave continues through January. He will be away on vacation for the first two weeks in February. He will return the week of the 13th.

Ash Wednesday Service is Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel

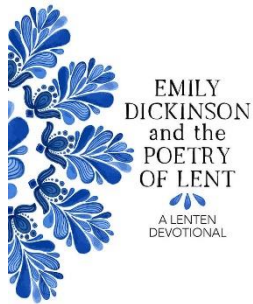
CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge

February 2023

Lent Study for 2023 features Poems of Emily Dickinson

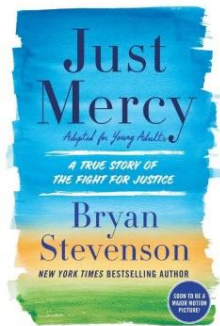
Emily Dickinson and the Poetry of Lent - Study begins March 1



For the 3rd year, we will offer a joint study for Pennellville UMC and BFUMC via zoom. The class is free, but registration is needed to get the Zoom link. We will meet every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. between March 1 and April 5. Copies of the devotional are available in the office. Digital materials will be sent upon registration. Sign up in the office or dining room. Lent is a time of reflection and insight, a change of seasons -

and Emily Dickinson, one of the world's most beloved poets, was also an avid gardener and a careful observer of the natural world. In this Lenten devotional, biblical texts and simple, accessible practices weave together with Dickinson's poetic vision, creating a 40-day journey into the heart of the holiest week of the year.

Eureka! For February



February 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. – (via zoom)

Just Mercy: a story of justice and redemption by Bryan Stevenson

2014 Written by the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a non-profit in Montgomery, Alabama, this book recounts true stories of their work serving the poor and voiceless. Highlighted is the case of Walter McMillian, a black man who was accused of two murders and spent more than six years on death row despite compelling evidence of his innocence. Powerful and thought-provoking as well as hopeful. Released as a full-length movie starring Michael B. Jordan in 2019.

Pastor Jeff's Office Hours:

Thru February 9: Mondays and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Week of February 12: Thursday, February 16, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Week of February 19: Monday, February 20 and Thursday, February 23, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Of Continued Concern:

Joyce Berube, Sally Graham, Dave Horan,
Elijah Huling, Pat Kline, Jim Larmondra,
Cheryl Metrick, Robert Yeddo

Friends & Neighbors:

Peter Armstrong,
nephew of Barb Stowe & Sue Vanderveer
Francis Bliven, Julia Bliven's husband
Larry Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen
Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother
Marjorie Heck, Shari Mudge's mother
William Hobart, friend of the Kisselsteins
Dana Kaiser, Donna Foster's son
Jim Kelley, stepfather of Pastor Jeff
Richard Marks, friend of Joan Foster
Robert Metrick, Cheryl Metrick's nephew
Blakely Nowicki, Kisselstein family
Doris Picco, Andy Picco's mother
Zachary Thomas, grandson of Mary Thomas
Lisa Wilson & family, Judy Herbs' niece
Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury

Pray for our Service Men & Women:

Holly Abbott, Jeff Coover,
Brian Cunningham, James Scott Gibbs,
Casey Hargrave, Jeffrey Lucy,
Dr. Kristen Lucy, Jeffrey Meany,
Brandon Merle, Benjamin Nordmark,
Tyler Reynolds, Peter Slye, Richard Slye



Sympathy:

Family & friends of Mary Dow
Lori & Steve Crego and family on the passing
of her mother, Kathy Pederson
Julia & Fran Bliven and family on the passing of
her brother, Ross Devendorf
Family & friends of Carolyn Anne Menzel

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster, Mildred Long, Janet McIntosh

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Fahey #454

Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #332B
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #517

Judy Herbs – Elderwood (PT) - #129

Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401

Clara Rose Thomas – Iroquois (PT)

Jim Tudman – Syracuse Home #204

Dear Friends of the Baldwinsville Congregation,

What a privilege to preach the sermon at last Sunday's worship service. It was wonderful to be so warmly welcomed in a number of ways at the service, and at the reception that followed. My first sermon was at the Salt Springville Church in May of 1954. Yesterday may well be my last time in the pulpit. In any case, I shall treasure the memory of your kindnesses on that day, and always pray for God's blessings upon you, now and in the years to come. Gordon W. Knapp

Dear Fellow Church Members,

Thank you for your generous support in 2022 of almost \$300,000. The Church faced a difficult year as costs exceeded income by \$22,906. The lingering effects of the Covid pandemic and inflationary pressures have resulted in less giving's as families struggle to make ends meet.

Despite cuts, the church was unable to significantly reduce costs to respond to the lower income. Total 2022 costs of \$365 thousand were \$21 thousand less than 2021. This included \$19,900 of the church's Shared Ministries to the annual conference going unpaid.

Income		<u>2022</u>
Pledges and Recorded Givings	\$	289,440
Special Offerings	\$	9,882
Endowments	\$	21,497
Building Use	\$	14,003
Other Income	\$	7,274
Total Income	\$	<u>342,096</u>
Costs		
Conference Charges	\$	32,956
Payroll and Benefits	\$	267,578
Local Ministries	\$	594
Worship Services	\$	2,944
Administration	\$	35,384
Building	\$	25,546
Total Costs	\$	<u>365,002</u>
Income (Loss)	\$	<u>(22,906)</u>

For 2023, the budget has a \$30.3 thousand deficit even after spending cuts. The position of worship leader was abolished, costs for church maintenance/repairs were transferred to the Trustee's and the Housekeeper was transferred to the Nursery School. These three items reduced costs by \$41.5 thousand. Even after these reductions, in order to break even, the church needs additional income or lower costs of \$55 thousand when compared to 2022.

Your church needs your help in this mission by giving a little extra if you can. The Finance Committee will continue work with other committees and the Admin Board to find ways to increase income or reduce costs to meet this challenge.

Greg "Rocky" Maxwell, Finance and Stewardship Committee Chair



02/01 Jim Sollecito
02/04 Rudy Kline
02/05 Pastor Bill Mudge
Norma Widmann
02/06 Kyle McCaleb
Zachary McCaleb

02/06 Joan Foster
Gwen Sacia
Raymond Honicker
02/08 Taylor Hoffman
02/10 Christopher Picco
02/12 Susan Monroe
Judy Gilbert
02/13 Gavin Crippen
Jennie Austin
Elaine Habelt

02/14 Gregory Johnson
02/15 Evelyn Abbott
Calleigh Lockwood
02/18 Bryanne Reynolds
02/19 Jeanne Margeson
02/20 Reta Read
Julia Bliven
02/21 Jude Burke
02/26 Kevin Lawrence
02/28 David Malcolm

Eureka! For March

March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The Vanishing Half: A Novel by Britt Bennett

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined.



S.A.M.A.S.A.N. Trivia Contest

Saturday, February 18th @ 12:30 p.m.

Come for a mini hot dog lunch and join your friends for a fun-filled afternoon.
Open to all. Please RSVP to Mickie Lorenz 315-635-5182.