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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Rev. William Mudge</td>
<td>315-292-0850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congregational Care &amp;</td>
<td>Rev. Jeff Hodge</td>
<td>315-383-4384</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Director</td>
<td>Douglas McCall</td>
<td>315-313-0767</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lisa Kane</td>
<td>315-635-6442</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Stephanie Hines</td>
<td>860-917-3145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Custodian</td>
<td>Dan Mackin</td>
<td>315-635-6442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housekeeper</td>
<td>Frank Harris</td>
<td>315-635-6442</td>
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Church Office: 315-635-6442
Fax: 315-635-6963

Normal Church 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 APRIL must be submitted to the church office by March 15th. Thank you.

Church Calendar
From the Pastors Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-21 NRSV

I remember a year ago when the experts told us all to go home and isolate for two weeks so that we could “flatten the curve” and put this COVID-19 thing behind us. We left the office that day with high hopes that we would still be able to gather for Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday – but that was not to be.

It has been a year! So many things have happened to us and around us these past 12 months. We have watched our country go through the most contentious political season that I remember! Not since the 1960’s have we seen such anger and violence in the streets of our cities. Friends, neighbors, and loved ones have died from this COVID disease and other causes. Jobs have been changed forever, businesses have adapted and/or closed.

In the shadow of this anniversary, I sat and prayed and pondered what I might write to you, my church family, as we look forward to whatever lies ahead of us. As I tried to listen to the Holy Spirit, a sermon that I heard when I was a little boy echoed in my memories.

The preacher was the Rev. Chester Lippy of the Westernville Presbyterian Church. I was very young and my father was in the midst of one of dozens of medical crises that we lived through as a family. Rev. Lippy preached from this text in 1 Thessalonians and called us to give thanks IN all situations, not necessarily FOR all situations.

Friends, we have MUCH to be thankful for.

Rev. Hae-Jong Kim, a pastor who served as bishop of our area years ago, told the story of his mother’s final request to her children as she was dying. She expressed her great thankfulness for all that God had done in her life and asked her children to make a “Thank Offering” on her behalf to our God who provides for us even in our struggles.

I invite you to join Shari and me this Lenten season in prayerfully considering giving a “Thank Offering” to God for God’s love and provision for us even in this COVID situation. Not FOR all circumstances, but IN all circumstances! If the Spirit leads you to join me, please label your gift “Thank Offering Lent” – I will report back to you after our Lenten journey culminates in Easter Celebrations the way God moves among us in this Lenten gift.

Come and join us for church Sunday morning at 9AM for our Heritage worship service in the sanctuary or at 11AM for our new Contemporary service featuring Nairobi Smith leading worship in the chapel. We’ll save you a socially distanced seat. (the 9AM and 11AM services will be live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube)

Thanking God for You and with You, Pastor Bill Mudge
One of the lessons of a difficult year is that we have noticed blessings that were always – right there in plain sight – but because of busyness or some other factors, we have missed them in the past. Being home more, doing things differently, has taught us to see and appreciate things differently; to look at the ordinary differently. In her devotional book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, author Jill J. Duffield identifies ten common objects to focus on as we better understand how God works through the ordinary. “God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace,” Duffield explains. “Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God’s quiet voice.”

I invite you to use this as your devotional throughout this season. As we encounter these common objects each week, it is our prayer that they will help inspire us as we go deeper in our faith this Lenten season. There are three opportunities to supplement your Lenten devotions:

**Weekly Mid-Week Reflection**
Every Thursday, February 25 to March 25 and on Wednesday, March 31
Pastor Jeff will focus on one of the objects in a weekly reflection, using scripture, and an excerpt and questions from Duffield’s book.

**Study Opportunity on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. via zoom**
BFUMC and Pennellville UMC are combining for this weekly Lenten study. If you are interested in receiving a zoom invitation, please let Jeff know (Jhodge312@yahoo.com or 315-383-4384 text/call).

**Eureka! Book Club** will discuss the book at its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.** This meeting will focus on the book as a whole with highlights on the most effective parts, specific passages, objects, etc., a discussion of what other ordinary objects could be included, and other devotionals we have found helpful.

(continued on page 4)
Friends & Neighbors:

Peter Allen, Diane Allen’s husband
Don Child, Stephanie Smith’s uncle
Barbara Church, Harlow Kisselstein’s sister
Brent Ellsworth, Candy Johnson’s nephew
Tom Disinger, brother of Barb Stowe & Sue Vanderveer
Joseph Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen
Kathy Duncan, friend of the Kisselsteins
Richard Greer, Dave Greer’s brother
Marjorie Heck, Shari Mudge’s mother
William Hobart, friend of the Kisselsteins
Janet Horton, friend of the Kisselstein’s
Evelyn Maihofer, Walter Maihofer’s daughter-in-law
Nola Marotta, friend of Diane Nolan
Scott Maxwell, Rocky Maxwell’s brother
Linda Munson, Marsha Plucinik’s sister-in-law
Blakely Nowicki (infant), Kisselstein family
Milton Pellman, friend of Alice Nykaza
Melissa Sullivan Ricotta, Bonnie & Millard Sullivan’s daughter
Judy Scott, friend of the Benton’s
Zachary Thomas, Mary Thomas’ grandson
Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury
Leona Vallier, cousin of Pam Fallesen

Of Continued Concern:

Harold Crandon, Helen Falge,
Gerry Foster, Sally Graham,
Oscar Jensen, Andy Picco,
Justin Taylor, Robert Yeddo

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Patricia Berry, Joan Foster,
Mildred Long, Shirley McMahon
Bill Barrett – Sedgwick Heights #124A
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale Liverpool #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #306B
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #517
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #455
Lois Minnoe – Syracuse Home #304
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Jim Tudman – McHarrie Pointe #317
Patricia Tudman – Syracuse Home #223

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
**Lent in Plain Sight** by Jill J. Duffield. 2020: Westminster, John Knox Press, Louisville, KY is available from various booksellers for $11, but we have it for $6, payable to Jeff Hodge. There are books in the office (Eureka! bookshelf outside Jeff’s office) while supplies last.

**Upcoming Eureka topics:**

April 27 – **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate
May 25 – **American Dirt** –by Jeannine Cummins (led by Ellen Jennings)
June 22– **Hidden Among the Stars** by Melanie Dobson (led by Bonnie Kisselstein)

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**Hosanna to Hallelujah: Non-stop**

The processional of palms
bids us “join now and sing,”
And so we shout “Hosanna...save now!”
as we follow in the Master’s train.

Same time, same place, next week
we march again.
This time to that great cry of exultation...
“Hallelujah! He is risen!”

In uninterrupted joy we march
from Mount of Olives straight to Joseph’s garden.
Non-stop, we pass from hosanna to hallelujah;
Oblivious to the murmurs of Gethsemane
and moans of Golgotha.

Blessed are they who wander from this highway
to that byway called the Via Dolorosa,
Finding on that darkened path
that in the sacred drama of salvation,
Without death there is no Resurrection...
without a cross the crown is tinsel.

Submitted by Rev. Gordon Knapp
03/03 Holly McMahon
   Molly Lockwood
   Olivia Bartlett
03/04 Melissa Turner
   Ron Waterbury
   Noah Johnson
03/05 Reagan Bouchard
03/06 Jeff Sweeney
03/07 Lori Driscoll
03/10 Diane Eastman
   Michael Lawrence
03/11 Carrie Foster
03/12 Rev. Jeff Hodge
   Chandra Hewitt
03/13 Tim Maxwell
   Jessica Wallace
   Kelly Carwell
03/15 Tom Fredette
03/16 Lori DeLola
03/17 Eliza McMahon
   Helen Stafford
03/19 Darcie Lesniak
   Judy Peter
03/20 Linda Kerwin
03/22 Alice Nykaza
03/23 Emma Webster
03/25 Robert Yeddo
   Ryan Hines
03/26 Reghan Metrick
   Julie Abbott
03/27 Travis Smith
03/28 Alex Evans
   Kate Kisselstein
03/29 Raina Malcolm
03/30 Rebecca Lawrence

EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies are $8.50 each. Please use this form or call the church office at 635-6442.

Orders are needed by March 22.

LILIES: ($8.50 per plant) No. of plants:_________ Total:________________
Name:________________________________ Phone #:________________
In Memory of:________________________________________________
In Honor of:________________________________________________

You can bring this form to the church office or put it in the mail.
Checks should be made payable to:
First United Methodist Church
17 W. Genesee St., Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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