

The Visitor



Pastor

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Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gordon Knapp 315-303-4862

Christian Education

Joan Ellsworth 315-251-5477

Music Director

Douglas McCall 315-313-0767

Secretary

Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

Treasurer

Stephanie Hines 860-917-3145

Custodian

Dan Mackin 315-635-6442

Housekeeper

Frank Harris 315-635-6442

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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 **DECEMBER**
must be submitted to the church office
by **November 15th**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



From the Pastors Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:1-3 NRSV

Home. So many memories and feeling spring to mind at that word. I suppose that it is a natural progression for us to transfer the best of these memories and feelings when we speak of heaven, our eternal home. I understand that not every memory or feeling about home and our families of origin are happy – I understand that the Walton's was just a television show, and that Hallmark movies are not our realities. Still, this time of year as the calendar turns to Thanksgiving and Christmas, my heart and mind return to a small town and my family of origin at 9146 Main Street in Westernville, New York. Home.

My mind also returns to my church families. Church has always been a central part of my family's life. I remember that little community of saints and sinners in Westernville, and the people of the congregations that my family and I have been blessed to serve over the years, from Salt Springville to Bluff Point, from Boonville and the Adirondack District to our current home in Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church. I am thankful for this Home.

I want to extend my sincerest invitation to all who will read this letter during these festive days and weeks to prayerfully consider coming home for the holy days. Again, I know that this is not a perfect place, but it a home full of love and grace. You are welcome here, and you will find a family of faith that will welcome you home with as much unconditional love as we can offer. Please plan to come home for the holidays – it won't be the same without you!

Come and join us for worship at 9:00 or 10:30 A.M., plan to be a part of our Sunday School program as we kick off our Sunday morning Christian Education time with some fun in the sanctuary at 10:30 A.M. There are several Bible Studies and fellowship opportunities each week. Come home and join us – we'll save you a seat!

In Grace and Peace, Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER



As you gather around the table this thanksgiving – whether it be with friends or family; or if you find yourself helping and serving others – be sure to include everyone in the table grace!

It can be as simple as taking turns around the table to “give thanks”. Here are some prayers – traditional and not-so-traditional to guide you this Thanksgiving.

Traditional Prayer

For each new morning with its light; for rest and shelter of the night. For health and food; for love and friends; for everything thy goodness sends, we give you thanks – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Superman Prayer

Thank you Lord for giving us food! Thank you Lord for giving us food! For the food that we eat here! and the friends that we meet here! Thank you Lord for giving us food!



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Eureka! Book Club on Tuesday, November 19 features “The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle”

Our November book club, which begins at 6:00 p.m., will be led by Patty Maxwell. “The 13th Gift:...”, by Joanne Huist Smith, is a heartwarming Christmas story about how a random act of kindness transformed one of the bleakest moments in a family's history into a time of strength and love. Note that the November meeting is a Tuesday and a little earlier than usual because of holidays and other events. Each meeting begins with dinner (cost ranges from \$5-\$10). RSVP by calling the office at 315-635-6442

--Rev Jeff Hodge, Pastor of Congregational Care & Family Ministries



Of continued concern:

Diane Allen, Brad Benton, Patricia Berry,
Harold Crandon, Jeane Custin, Gene Evans,
Joan Foster, Rev. Fred Kelsey, Patricia Kline,
Mildred Long, Janet McIntosh, Shirley McMahon,
Bob & Lois Minnoe, Peggy Warne

At Care Facilities:

Charles Bordwell – Brookdale Liverpool #53
Marian Britton – St. Camillus
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #419
Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #334
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #523
Zora Meloling – Loretto-Cunningham #534
Betty Morrow – Loretto-Cunningham #1015
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Jim Tudman – McHarrie Pointe #401
Patricia Tudman – Syracuse Home #323

Pray for our Service Men & Women:

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

Sympathy to:

Family & friends of Earl Scott
Norma Widmann & family on the passing of
her great-grandson, Jackson Edward Braig
Phyllis Turner, Kathleen Chappell & family on the
passing of their mother, Julia Ball
Sharon Cook & family on the passing of
her daughter, Kelsey Cook

Relatives/Friends/Neighbors:

Peter Allen, Diane Allen's husband
Jean Disinger, Sue Vanderveer & Barb Stowe's mother
Brent Ellsworth, Candy Johnson's nephew
Debbie Davis, friend of Pam Fallesen
Joseph Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen
Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother
Marjorie Heck, Shari Mudge's mother
Scott Maxwell, Rocky Maxwell's brother
Carolyn Nowicki, niece of the Kisselsteins
Charlene Nowicki, Bonnie Kisselstein's sister
Melissa Sullivan Ricotta,
Bonnie & Millard Sullivan's daughter
Judy Scott, friend of the Benton's
Jessica Scriver, friend of the Benton's
Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury
June VerNooy, Beverly Archer's sister
Kristin Hebblethwaite Walter,
Judy Sugar-Giordano's niece
Leona Vallier, cousin of Pam Fallesen
Ralph Wolfe, Joyce Berube's father
Dallas & Delpha Youngman, Susan Monroe's parents
Graydons Youngman, Susan Monroe's uncle

Thanks and Praise

Wayne and I would like to thank our church family for all the cards, phone calls, prayers and support during my second Hospital stay!! We would also like to thank Rev. Jeff for his prayers and visit on the day of my surgery! And our thanks to Rev. Knapp for his visit and prayers during my time at St. Joseph's Hospital. Looking forward to a complete recovery!! Blessings, Wayne & Judy Gilbert

Worship Schedule

Normal:

9:00 a.m. Sanctuary & 10:30 a.m. Chapel

Daylight Saving Time ends

Nov 3 – Worship Service (Regular Service)

Nov 10 – Worship Service, Communion

Nov 17 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Nov 24 – Christ the King Sunday

Dec 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent, Communion

*We are proud to be a “Safe Sanctuary”
for children and youth, disabled,
and vulnerable adults.*

Please Note:

The church office will be closed on Thursday
& Friday, November 28 & 29
for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Baptism:

Chloe Grace Breckheimer

daughter of Victoria Dusart and
Jayson Breckheimer

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Food Collection Sunday November 3

Children will be collecting food donations as you
enter the Sanctuary. Needed in November:
veggies, canned tomatoes, and soup. (Food
Collection Sunday is the first Sunday of the
month.)

**Monetary donations are
also gladly accepted.**

United Methodist Women

Hannah-Sarah Circle will meet on Wednesday,
November 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel. All
interested are invited to attend.

Grief Support Group (Hands of Hope)

This is a monthly support group that meets on
the third Wednesday of every month for those
that have lost a loved one and would like to
meet with others to talk or just to listen. A
bereavement counselor is present. Our next
two meetings are November 20 at 6:30 p.m. in
the church library. Refreshments served.

O.W.L.S.

Our next gathering is on Thursday, November
21 at 1:00 p.m. in the church dining room.
(Terry Miller, 315-409-4063)

U.M.M. Breakfast & Meeting

Saturday, November 23 at 8:00 a.m.
in the dining room.

SAMASAN Book Story Night

Saturday, November 23, at 5:00 p.m.
in the Church dining room

Pizza, salad, dessert, and beverages will be
served and a free-will offering will be collected
to cover food costs. Please bring a new book
(for any age) to be donated to the Christmas
Bureau. Books may also be dropped off at the
Church Office. Please RSVP by noon Friday,
November 22, so we have enough food for all.

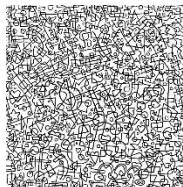
Smith: 315-635-7145, nsmit24@twcny.rr.com
Ramseyer: 315-638-8177,
jramseyer1@yahoo.com
Kisselstein: 315-635-7669,
bkissels@twcny.rr.com



We hope you can attend this fun evening!

Events in Pennellville that may be of interest...

COME OUT OF THE CHAOS



Dealing with loss, illness, stress of life?

Take a “God Break” with us.

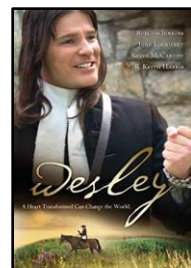
Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.

A 30-minute service of music and prayers with time for quiet reflection

Pennellville UMC, 389 County Route 54, Pennellville

Thursday afternoon film study:

Join us for Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World – A three-week study hosted by Pastor Jeff at Pennellville UMC (389 County Route 54, Pennellville) Thursdays, **November 7, 14, and 21 at 1:30 p.m.** We will view the video over two sessions and discuss the movie and Wesley’s teachings during session three.



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS in the current church October 1, 1869 – October 26, 1870

October 1, 2019 was the beginning the celebration of 150 years in our current church.

On October 1, 1869, Methodists in Baldwinsville were attending the church building located on Oswego Street across from the Presbyterian Church. Membership was 142 in full membership and 21 probationers.

For 4 or 5 years, members of the Society felt the need of better and more ample church accommodations. It was finally determined at a Society meeting held June 25, 1869, nearly unanimous vote, to proceed at once to build as soon as \$15,000 was pledged towards the project. This sum was reached in July.

In today’s money that would equal approximately \$285,848,18.

Many devoted members have contributed their time and money over the years. Watch for more historic tidbits about the life of this church. Several have offered to help with events between now and the official date of dedication, October 29.

If you have ideas of what we should do to celebrate this major anniversary contact Bonnie Kisselstein bkissels@twcny.rr.com, Lisa Kisselstein elisabeth.kisselstein@gmail.com or Rev. Jeff Hodge jhodge312@yahoo.com .



The Longest Night - A Service of Remembrance and Hope

This candle lighting service is extended to all people in the Baldwinsville Community. On Monday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m., the Hands of Hope Group will once again host a remembrance service in the church Sanctuary for those that have lost a loved one. The holidays can be difficult when we are grieving and this is a special time to remember that person and light a candle in their memory.

If you would like, come early so you may print your loved one's name on paper and set a framed picture on the altar table before the service begins. Fellowship in the dining room after the service; refreshments will be served.

If you would like to make memorial donations for flowers, candles, cookies, or expenses, please contact Karen Picco (652-2917) or Lisa (635-6442).

Annual Community Breakfast with Santa

Sponsored by Baldwinsville Nursery School

Saturday, December 7, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

*Start writing your list, mark your calendar,
and plan to join us for this fun event.*



If your family is looking for a fun way to begin the Christmas season, please plan to join us for our annual **All You Can Eat Breakfast with Santa**. *The breakfast is hosted by Baldwinsville Nursery School and all proceeds benefit the school's scholarship fund.*

The meal, deliciously prepared by the United Methodist Men, includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages. There will be crafts and activities for the children and, of course, a visit with that top VIP of the season, Santa Claus! Registration forms are available at the church.

If you would like to donate food supplies to keep our costs at a minimum, BNS is grateful for any donations you can provide. Just take a walk down to the preschool wing and choose a brick from Santa's fireplace (on the bulletin board) to know what is needed. Questions about Breakfast with Santa? Call or email Julie, 315-635-5723; baldwinsvillenurseryschool@gmail.com

Best Wishes to all for a Blessed Holiday Season from the BNS Staff

BALDWINSVILLE CHRISTMAS BUREAU FAMILY REGISTRATION

Family Registration

Friday, November 1, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 2, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 5, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 6, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



If your family is in need of help/assistance this Holiday season, please come to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 2840 Cold Springs Rd., Baldwinsville.

Who is eligible: Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau serves families who live in the Baldwinsville School District and who have at least one child from birth/late pregnancy - high school senior. After children graduate high school, they do not qualify for this program.

What to bring: You **MUST** bring proof of all income and benefits, proof of current address (DRIVER'S LICENSE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE), AND ANY BENEFIT CARDS OR SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS FOR ALL FAMILY MEMBERS WHO QUALIFY. Please also have sizes of clothes and shoes for all qualifying family members and a "wish list" of needs/requests.

Please Note:

Unless there is a special need or reason that is approved, **these four days are the only days to register** for this year's Christmas Bureau. If there is any question, call Carmey at the Volunteer Center office (315-638-0251) or Lauri (315-727-5435)

WOW! – Did you know . . .?

Vienna McCall, daughter of Douglas and Stephanie McCall, has her first foray into the Stage Management scene! This fall at SUNY Oswego's Tyler Hall, Vienna will be the Assistant Stage Manager for "Dead Man's Cell Phone". Here is the link with information about the performance:

https://calendar.oswego.edu/event/dead_mans_cell_phone#.XZHI7OZKi00

(If we have overlooked someone, please let us know)



It's not too early to start thinking about the **Children's Christmas Bazaar!** It will be held on **Saturday, December 14** and children will be able to shop in secret for family and friends. Each item, regardless of size, will cost 50 cents! **We welcome the following donations! Items can be brought to the church office.**

- Gift bags – we have plenty of wrapping paper
- Tissue paper, bows, tape, and gift tags
- Gifts for men, women, and children of all ages.

Handwriting on the wall?



Last week on vacation we ended up in Quebec City a bastion of the Roman Catholic faith. One of the first things we did was take a double decker tour bus about the city. As we were pointed out the sites we also learned that many of their churches were being turned into condominiums, theaters, cocktail lounges and fitness centers. I was moved by this as I witnessed church after church with boarded up windows or windows void of their stained glass. I remembered a number of years ago when we were in Germany learning about their empty churches. The first Sunday back at our church I saw too many empty pews and knew of too many of our churches in our own community that were struggling. Was I, am I, viewing the handwriting on the wall for churches in our country?

Getting back home from church I went online. Looking up the state of churches in Quebec and learned that 95% of the people attended mass in the 50's. That is down to 5% today. The repurposing of churches is happening under the guise that they are remaining true to the church's mission of serving the community. This is happening as pews are recast as bars and crucifixes are paraded at Halloween parties.

In Germany a strong hold of the Lutheran-protestant faith there were 4600 churches. Eight hundred are no longer in use. For many the congregations are diminished and serve only as tourist sites. The church there for years has been supported by an 8% tax on capital gains on those that have been baptized. People are now disavowing their church membership to get out from under the tax burden.

What happens to a faith community when they lose their church? Of what value are symbols of faith to a community and to a nation's moral fiber? What will fill the void?

We need to be in our churches on Sundays for ourselves and equally important for the strengthening of the church family. What is it that is written on the wall?



11/01 Barbara Ruel
Pamela Yeddo
Robby Eastman
11/02 Steve Ranous
11/03 Alicia Baldwin
Stephanie Smith
Holly Abbott

11/06 Bryan Reynolds
11/05 Sally Graham
Douglas Smith
Fred Fuess
Patricia Kline
11/08 Davion Frank
11/11 Marvin Joslyn
Robert DiRenzo
11/12 David Marsell, Jr.
11/13 Rev. Voigt Archer
Bonnie Kisselstein
11/14 Greg Maxwell

11/16 Kara Johnson
11/19 India Dancil
11/20 Anne Simonds
Andrew Turner
11/21 William Barrett
Eric Hildreth
11/22 Mary Joncas
11/23 Madelyn Ransiear
11/24 Ava Metrick
Martha DuBois
11/26 Rachel Brown
11/27 Jake Falconer
Cayden Hines



POINSETTIAS

If you wish to order a plant to be in honor of or in memory of someone, please use this form or call the church office **no later than December 6**. You may also place your order in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Any questions, call the church office (635-6442).

POINSETTIAS: (\$8.25 per plant) No. of plants: _____ Total: _____

(PLEASE print neatly)

Name: _____ Telephone No. _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

You can bring your money to the church office or mail it. Make your check payable to: *First United Methodist Church, 17 W. Genesee St., Baldwinsville, NY 13027*