

The Visitor



November

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

Dan Williams 315-406-0232

Secretary

Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

Bookkeeper

Rod Porter 315-247-7426

Treasurer

George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

IN THIS ISSUE

Congregational Care & Family Ministries Page 2

SAMASAN // Thanksgiving Dinner Page 4

Disciple Bible Study // Safe Sanctuaries Page 5

Eureka! Book Club // Christmas Bureau Page 6

Church Giving // Children's Bazaar Page 7

Advent Study // 'The Longest Night ...' Page 9

Poinsettias Order Form Page 11

Church Office: 315-635-6442

Fax: 315-635-6963

Normal Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

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 Pastor's Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:4-8 NRSV

Shari and I recently enjoyed three opportunities to celebrate Grandparents Day with three of our grandchildren in their elementary school. What a blessing to watch them and enjoy them in their classroom setting with their teachers and friends!

As we drove north for each of these Grandparents' Days we noticed the tell-tale signs of summer ending and autumn moving in. The leaves are beautiful, but we know what lies behind them. Colder temperatures and... well, you know.

This month we turn from Oktoberfest and All Saints celebrations towards Thanksgiving. This past Sunday I referenced a scripture that has been a blessing to Shari and me since our early days of marriage and ministry. After worship several people approached me and asked for the scripture reference from Philippians. I decided that this newsletter article would provide me with a vehicle to share it with all of you as we turn our hearts and minds towards Thanksgiving.

Here in Philippians 4 the apostle Paul encourages us to rejoice in the Lord, and not to be anxious about anything. This is good council from any preacher but takes a bit more weight when we remember that Paul wrote these words while in prison! Paul encourages us to make our needs known to God by prayers and supplications (Oxford dictionary: earnest begging) with thanksgiving.

The promise from this kind of prayer Paul says is peace! A peace that passes all understanding – an unreasonable peacefulness. That is the healing I came looking for 40 years ago. I believe it is the gift our nation and the world needs this holy day season.

Come and join us for worship at 9am Sunday morning for our Heritage worship service featuring our choir and familiar hymns. It has been exciting to have our church family returning and worshipping together. If you can't make it to church on Sunday morning, you can find us live on Facebook at around 9:05 am each Sunday – you can go back and watch or rewatch these services anytime! We'll save you a seat!

Serving Christ with You,
Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge

November 2023

We can all be part of BFUMC Children's Ministries

With our HANDS & HEARTS

Sadly, no one joined me in my office over those two weeks for prayer, but I am hopeful that you are praying for children and families. We have been blessed that several new families have arrived, and others have returned. It is my prayer that a nurturing and empowering Christian Education program will emerge for BFUMC families.



Here are ways we can help with HANDS & HEARTS:

Join us in prayer. Please pray this or a prayer of your own every day:

Lord God, we thank you for every blessing and ask that you continue to empower and engage us in our Christian faith. May we continue to be blessed to be a blessing and find new ways to reach out to children and their families so that they may better know you and be encouraged in their own faith walk, help us to use our gifts to develop ministries for all ages, and help equip my gifts so that I may better serve you. Amen.

Step forward and help. We could use teachers and helpers for our Sunday morning Sunday School, which begins at 10:10 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m. You can help weekly or on occasion. To help you need:

- A willingness to share your heart with kids
- A background check
- Safe Sanctuaries training within 6 months

Bring your children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends – You get the idea, share this information with those whom you love. Sunday School begins upstairs in the Pre-K/K room immediately following Children's Time. Parents and guardians should meet their children following worship or make arrangements to meet them in the dining room.

Check out these other Sunday morning offerings for families!

Nursery Care is available in the Nursery Care Room on the first floor of the Education Wing. Come meet Mrs. Teresa Piedmonte, our nursery caregiver. For more information about the nursery and ways to help, please contact Marsha Plucinik at Marshaplucinik@gmail.com.

Acolytes for 2023-2024 – If you want more information or want to sign up your child to serve as an acolyte, be sure to check the information at the acolyte stand at the back of the sanctuary.

Of Continued Concern:

Robert Eastman, Sally Graham,
Judy Herbs (Crouse), Dave Horan, Elijah Huling,
Pat Kline, Jim Larmondra, Tim Link,
Janet McIntosh, Cheryl Metrick, Susan Ranous,
Helen Stafford, Ron Waterbury, Robert Yeddo

Friends & Neighbors:

Francis Bliven, Julia Bliven's husband
Larry Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen
Carolyn Dixon
Emily Gibbs
Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother
William Hobart, friend of the Kisselsteins
Craig Hodge, Pastor Jeff's brother
John Hughes, Joyce Wilkinson's brother
Dana Kaiser, Donna Foster's son
Roberta Maxwell,
 sister-in-law of Patty & Rocky
Edwin McIntosh, Janet McIntosh's son
Blakely Nowicki, Kisselstein family
Zachary Thomas, grandson of Mary Thomas
Lisa Wilson & family, Judy Herbs' niece
Ruby VanDuser, friend of Suzanne Ellis
Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury

Pray for our Service Men & Women:

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



Sympathy to:

Karen Witter & family on the passing of
her father, David W. Lane
Family & friends of James E. Tudman

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Cunningham #504
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #332B
Dorothy Clary – Commons-Loretto, Auburn
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457
Mildred Long – Syracuse Home #122
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401
Richard Stafford – Syracuse Home #301



In honor of our veterans, the Altar Committee would like to display photos of loved ones who have served or are currently serving in the military. We ask the congregation to bring their photos for the **November 12** service and place them on the altar rail.

SAMASAN: Book Party for Christmas Bureau



On Saturday, November 11 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., in the church dining room, there will be a Book Donation Benefit Party, for the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau. Please bring one or more new books or books in excellent condition, for children grade 6 + above and adults of any age, non-religious content.

There will be light refreshments, fellowship, a fun group activity using the book titles and a book related trivia challenge.

You do not have to be a SAMASAN member; everyone is invited! We hope that you can attend. If you would like to attend, please contact: Nancy Brotherton (315-399-0212), Ellen Jennings (315-638-1377), or Nancy Smith (315-415-7874).

Through Friday, December 1, book donations can be placed in a drop-off box **INSIDE**, at either the Church Front door or the Church Office door. Thank you!



Wednesday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Praise Time at 6:00 p.m. and Worship at 6:30 p.m.

BFUMC Dining Room

Sponsored by BFUMC & Pennellville UMC



Hanging of the Greens

In preparation for the upcoming Advent Season, we will be decorating the church on Sunday, November 26. We begin immediately after the service concludes. All are welcome as many hands are needed to fluff and set the Greens, including men to help with the ladder and Christmas trees.



Congregation Picture

It's time to take another congregation picture! Bring your smiles and join us on **November 5, after the 9am service!** The picture will be turned into a Thanksgiving card to send out to church family who find it difficult to attend in person. It's a way to make sure no one feels forgotten.

Disciple 1 Bible Study: God is calling!

In the United Methodist Church tradition, Christians become more committed Disciples of Jesus through Bible study. A new Disciple 1 Bible Study will begin on Monday, November 6 at 1:00 p.m. at the BFUMC. Please be a part of this spiritual-deepening experience.

George Ramseyer (315-720-6184) ramseyerg@gmail.com

Safe Sanctuaries Training Events

Are you up to date on your Safe Sanctuaries Training? If you work with children or vulnerable adults, you need to take one 3-hour training. If you have not taken a training since 2015, we recommend you take a refresher.

By Zoom: Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

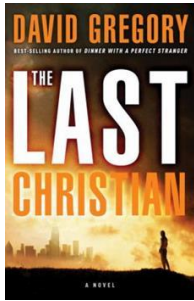
- Three-hour Basic Safe Sanctuaries Training via Zoom
- To find Registration Link: **Safe Sanctuaries® Training Opportunities / United Methodist of Upper New York (unyumc.org)**

At BFUMC: Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

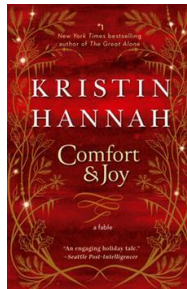
- Three-hour Basic Safe Sanctuaries Training in-person

Register in BFUMC office or e-mail Jhodge312@yahoo.com

Look what's coming to Eureka! BOOK CLUB



November 14 at 6:30 p.m.
The Last Christian by David Gregory



December 12 at 6:30 p.m. --
Comfort & Joy by Kristin Hannah



Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau 2023

We **DEPEND** on local businesses, churches, school groups, organizations, and individuals to help make the holidays a little brighter for those not as fortunate as ourselves.

Donation drop-off open: November 25 - December 11

located in the B'ville School District Operations Building on Albert Palmer Lane

M-W-F: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; T-TH: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.;

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For monetary donations, make checks payable to *Baldwinsville Volunteer Center* and note 'Christmas Bureau' in the memo area. Mail to our office at: 8200 Loop Road, Suite 101, Baldwinsville.

Call Lauri Bernstein, Christmas Bureau Coordinator, with any questions (315-727-5435). You are more than welcome to stop by during our open hours and we would love to show you around to see just how your donations are going to help those in your Baldwinsville Community!



Children's Bazaar

It's not too early to start thinking about the
Children's Christmas Bazaar!

It will be held on December 9, 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 and *Bows*

Gifts for men, women, and children of all ages.

Any questions, please contact Janet Brooks: JBrooks48@aol.com; 315-415-6416

Church Giving

If you are not in church, you can continue supporting our church using automatic payments on your on-line bank account or the church's on-line payment system.

Using your bank's on-line bill payment feature, you can set up an automatic payment where your bank sends a check to the church. You control the frequency and amount of the payment. Simply use Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church, 17 W. Genesee Street, Baldwinsville NY 13027, indicate the amount and frequency of payment. Most banks do not charge you any additional cost for this feature.

The church also has an on-line payment system thru VANCO. Go to the on-line church's website [www. \[bvillefirstumc.org\]\(https://www.bvillefirstumc.org\)](https://www.bvillefirstumc.org) and on the right-side column press 'Online Giving – Make a Donation'. You set up your account and make your donation to the general fund or other areas listed. You will go to a screen where you can enter the amount, frequency of payment and if you want to pay using a bank account or credit card. You will have the option to offset the charge the church incurs for this system.

If you prefer to use a mobile device (cell phone), use the following QR code and it will take you to the on-line payment system from VANCO. Follow the same procedure to set up your contribution as the on-line system.
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z7C7/home>



For more information, contact Rod Porter, Bookkeeper (315) 247-7426 or Rocky Maxwell, Chair of Finance Committee (315) 488-5700. Thank you for supporting our church.

Update on the Church's Financial Condition

Fall is always a time of transition. We leave the heat and humidity of summer and get ready for the snow and cold of winter. Families return from vacations, trips, and other summer activities. They prepare their children to return to school. Church attendance increases.

The summer season is always a difficult time for church finances. With lower attendance, offerings decrease. Funds available to pay costs normally decrease. At the same time expenses increase as projects such as cleaning, repairs, etc. are undertaken since there are less people in the building. But this year has been a little different. Due to your continuing generous support with your offerings this summer, the offerings and recorded giving has reached \$197 thousand through September. Although we are below the budgeted amount and most likely will not meet the 2023 budget, all of the church's bills have been paid on time, except for the conference apportionments, due to the diligence of the Finance Committee and their conservative management of cash flow. More people are using the on-line giving system. Through September, 22% of all offerings were made through the on-line program, a significant increase over the past year. I encourage everyone to look into using on-line giving. It is easy and you are in complete control. Simply go to the church's website for more information or take a card located in the pew. Thank you for your support. Your Finance Committee continues to monitor the cash position of the church and I want to thank each and every one of you for your diligence.

Fall also means our church is in transition. The nominating committee starts to recruit new committee members, choirs begin rehearsing, and your Finance Committee starts preparing the 2024 budget. To make reasonable projections for the budget, we need your help.

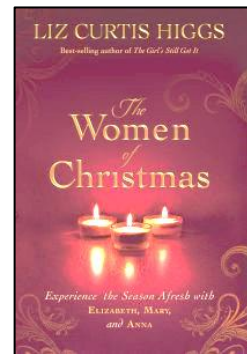
Sunday, November 19 is Pledge Sunday. On that day, you will be asked to make a financial commitment for the next year so the church can continue its various programs. The two Sundays before Pledge Sunday, church members will share with you why they come to our church and what it means to them. On November 19, it is your turn. We know each church member faces a different economic condition. Some may have received increased wages while others are struggling as they live on fixed income. When you decide the amount of your pledge, I ask that you reflect on what the church means to you and make your commitment accordingly.

Thank you for your past and future support of our church.

Greg "Rocky" Maxwell
Chair, Finance Committee

**Coming in December ...
a journey through Advent with three special women**

Join us for a book-centered Advent experience incorporating scripture, video and discussion featuring the book *The Women of Christmas: Experience the Season Afresh with Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna* by Liz Curtis Higgs. We will meet on Wednesdays, December 6 & 13, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the chapel. To register, or if you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Pray (jwpray@aol.com; 638-1290) or Barbara Jones (barbaraj73@gmail.com; 727-4692). Note: we have a limited number of books to borrow or purchase. Please contact Jeanne as soon as possible if you are interested.



A Thank You

We had a lot of fun, a lot of stories and yes, a lot of hard work. My very big thanks to co-chairs Dave Horan and Alan Lindsey who eased the decision making that needs to get done.

To all who gave so generously of their time and their donations, thank you very much. We can't make our Rummage Sale successful without teamwork.

Please note that at the end of the sale on Saturday, items were selected for the Refugee Center in Syracuse, books in good condition were chosen for the Christmas Bureau, small knick-knacks & Christmas bags were put aside for our Children's Bazaar and all leftover sale items went to the Phoenix Methodist Church for their Rummage Sale.

I am very proud to announce sales totaled \$3,438.50. Blessings, Mickie Lorenz, Co-Chair

The Longest Night - A Service of Remembrance and Hope

This candle lighting service is extended to all people in the Baldwinsville Community. On Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m., the Hands of Hope Group will once again host a remembrance service in the church Sanctuary.



If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, the holidays can be a difficult time and we need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern and to know that we are not alone. 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 with light refreshments.

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



**B.N.S. is grateful for the
Barbara MacPherson Memorial Scholarship
(B.M.M.S.)**

Did you know that our own B.N.S. (Baldwinsville Nursery School) was founded in 1974 by community member, Barbara MacPherson?

Barbara served as Director of the Nursery School for 25 years before retiring. Her family (husband, Malcolm “Mac”, daughter, Sandra, and sons: Donald, David, and James) decided to honor her memory with a memorial scholarship in her name. This serves to give back to the Baldwinsville community in which she raised her family and to support the population of young children that she held dear. It is the family’s intention that the B.M.M.S. exists in perpetuity, and is used to help families in B’ville with financial limitations, to send their 3- or 4-year-olds to preschool. If you would like to help a local youngster in a way that also honors the legacy of a great woman affiliated with the BFUMC community, please consider giving to the *Barbara MacPherson Memorial Scholarship* fund as a one-time donation or each year as part of your giving efforts.

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Barbara MacPherson Memorial Scholarship

Giver’s name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

(a receipt will be mailed to you for your record-keeping purposes at year-end)

Please make checks payable to BFUMC with B.M.M.S. (or Barbara’s name) on the memo line and mail to:

Baldwinsville Nursery School
17 W. Genesee St
Baldwinsville NY13027

or

Drop in BNS lock box
hallway of Church
Education wing

or

send Venmo to:
@BNS2018
code 7277

(cut and enclose this portion in envelope)



November BIRTHDAYS

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

11/05 Sally Graham
Douglas Smith
11/06 Pat Kline
Bryan Reynolds
11/08 Davion Frank
11/11 Marv Joslyn
Robert DiRenzo
11/12 David Marsell, Jr.
11/13 Bonnie Kisselstein
11/14 Rocky Maxwell
11/16 Kara Johnson
Lorelei Abdella

11/20 Andrew Turner
Anne Simonds
Alan Lindsey, Jr.
11/21 Bill Barrett
11/22 Mary Joncas
11/23 Madelyn Ransiear
11/24 Ava Metrick
Martha DuBois
11/27 Cayden Hines
Jake Falconer



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 4.** You may also place your order in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Any questions, call the church office (635-6442).

POINSETTIAS: (\$9.00 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*