

# The Visitor



## Senior Pastor

Rev. William Mudge 315-292-0850

## Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

## Administrative Pastor

Rev. Susan Ranous 315-445-1045

## 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

<u>Congregational Care &amp; Family Ministries</u>	Page 2
<u>BNS Book Fair</u>	Page 4
<u>SAMASAN // Eureka! Book Club</u>	Page 4
<u>Children's Church // Eclipse Event</u>	Page 5
<u>V.B.S. 2024</u>	Page 6
<u>Thank You from Pastor Jeff</u>	Page 7

Church Office: 315-635-6442

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## Normal Office Hours:

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

E-mail: [secretary@bvillefirstumc.org](mailto:secretary@bvillefirstumc.org)

Website: [www.bvillefirstumc.org](http://www.bvillefirstumc.org)

## PLEASE NOTE:

Articles for the **MAY**  
must be submitted to the church office  
by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



**From the Pastor's Desk**

*"A Sheepdogs Tale"*

**“Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.” 1 Corinthians 15:1-9 NRSV**

“Happy Easter! He is risen!! He is risen indeed!” This was the message in texts and phone calls and at every worship service on March 31<sup>st</sup>. It almost seems like at Easter the whole creation is caught up in the celebration of resurrection!

I remember Easter Sunday as a boy growing up in a small country church. In my memory, faulty and frayed as it is, every Easter day was sunny and warm and filled with happy faces and celebration. How could it be any other way? He is risen – he is risen indeed!

As time has moved on, the Easter joy has deepened for me. Where this mystery of resurrection and new life was a lovely concept in my childhood it has now become a cherished promise as I have trusted my dear ones in my family of birth and the saints that I have served and served with for over 40 years. I find myself more and more a citizen of two worlds – this immediate home on earth and the promised reunion and release we call heaven. Sometimes I think I have more loved ones there than here!

Perhaps that is why Easter, Resurrection Sunday, means more and more to me as the years pass. Perhaps that is what moved the Apostle Paul to write these words in 1 Corinthians 15. A precious reminder of the hope that we carry, a hope that we offer to a broken and hurting world – “Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!”

Come and join us for worship at 9am Sunday morning for our Heritage worship service featuring our choir and familiar hymns. If you are unable to join us in person, we are recording live on Facebook. Plan to come and join us – we’ll save you a seat!

Serving Christ with You,  
Pastor Bill Mudge

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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*Rev. Jeff Hodge*

April 2024



Easter Sunday is only the beginning of a season of Resurrection and new life! The season spans 50 days and will end with our Pentecost Celebration on Sunday, May 19.

Here are just a few ideas how we can live as Easter people of Light and Hope!

Find a cause or group to give back to! – There are a lot of different organizations to get involved with, including many dedicated to help improve the lives of children and families. Maybe donate funds or make blankets for Project Linus ([projectlinus.org](http://projectlinus.org)) or Sleep in Heavenly Peace ([shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org)), or provide food or funds to the Baldwinsville Food Pantry at BFUMC. Those are just a few opportunities.

Clean up the neighborhood around you or a local park – Grab a few garbage bags and maybe a rake and a broom and make a difference in just an hour or two of clean up.

Send a card to a neighbor or one of our housebound or nursing home residents – A card from you, or even a call, will brighten up the day of our members who aren't able to get out. If you need addresses, please see Alice Nykaza of the Cheery Visitors or Pastor Jeff.

Pray for our college students and military members.

Those are just a few ways we can live into our role as “Easter People”!

**Of Continued Concern:**

Dave Horan, Elijah Huling,  
**Pat Kline (Crouse ICU)**, Jim Larmondra,  
Janet McIntosh, Ron Waterbury

**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  
Rudy Kline, Pat Kline's husband  
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:**

Janet Wojnovich & family on the passing of  
her sister, Joan Desmuke

Family & friends of Marjorie J. Dence

Sandy Rabe & family on the passing of  
her father, William Strife

**Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:**

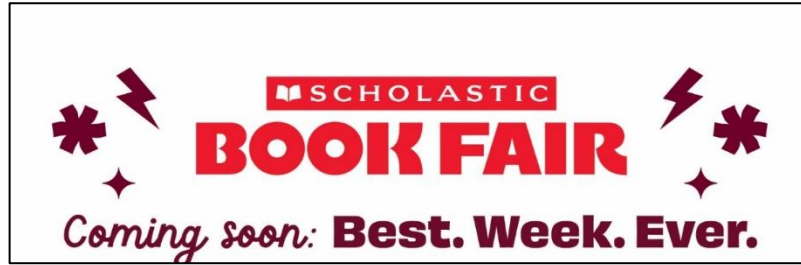
*Joan Foster*

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Cunningham #504  
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53  
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #344  
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936  
Judy Herbs – Elderwood #225D  
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457  
Mildred Long – Syracuse Home #122  
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107  
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401  
**Clara Rose Thomas – St. Camillus (PT) #KB 94-1**

**Please Note:**

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know at  
[secretary@bvillefirstumc.org](mailto:secretary@bvillefirstumc.org).





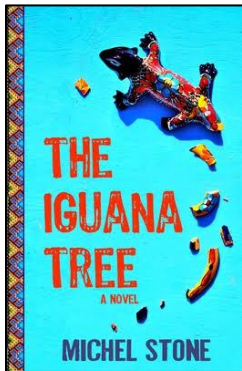
Come and shop the BNS Book Fair any morning 4/1 - 4/5 in the Chapel. Choose from many children's books at low cost while supporting the nursery school at the same time. Want to support our BNS classrooms, but don't have anyone to shop for? The teachers have provided wish lists of books they'd love to share with their little learners.



### **S.A.M.A.S.A.N. International Day**

We will have a "Visit to Belgium" on Saturday, April 13 from 11:30 -2:00 in the church dining room. Our Belgian meal will be prepared mainly by Alan Lindsey, and our very enthusiastic presenter will be Thomas Onkelinx, Rotary exchange student hosted by the Cato club this year. The cost will be \$10.00 per person, to be paid on or before Sunday, April 7 upon registering through Dave or Ann Horan, Jeanne Pray or Norma Widmann.

### **Eureka! Book Club book for April: April 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**



*The Iguana Tree* is our April selectin. We meet for approximately 90 minutes every month in the chapel. Our book selections cover a wide array of interests and genres. *From Amazon.com:* Set amid the perils of illegal border crossings, *The Iguana Tree* is the suspenseful saga of Lilia and Hector, who separately make their way from Mexico into the United States, seeking work in the Carolinas and a home for their infant daughter. Michel Stone's harrowing novel meticulously examines the obstacles each faces in pursuing a new life: manipulation, rape, and murder in the perilous commerce of border crossings; betrayal by family and friends; exploitation by corrupt officials and rapacious landowners on the U.S. side; and, finally, the inexorable workings of the U.S. justice system.



Children's Church Meets every Sunday following the Children's Moment. Three important words will guide our lessons during the month of April – LOVE, BELIEVE, SHARE. Children ages 3 and up are invited to be part of our one-room Sunday School.

**Liverpool First UMC is hosting  
a fun Eclipse event on Monday, April 8!**

Mark history with your friends at Liverpool First UMC as we enjoy the Total Solar Eclipse safely – and with fun activities for all ages! Don't be left in the dark without a fun, safe place to view history in the making – Liverpool First UMC is located at 604 Oswego Street. For more information see Pastor Jeff.



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**LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES**  
**Introduction to Lay Ministry: *The BASIC Course***

Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant lay leadership development programs available within the United Methodist Connection. Lay servant ministries is about equipping and empowering people as disciples and leaders.

This course is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being a part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

This five-week course will be held (via Zoom) on Monday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on April 15, 22, 29, and May 6, and 13, 2024. The instructor is Bob Mueller, CLM, and Co-Director of the Crossroads Lay Servant Ministries Committee. The text for this course is Lay Servant Ministries (Participants Book) by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson. ISBN 978-0-88177-626-3 Available on Amazon or Cokesbury.com

For more information or to register for this class contact: Bob Mueller; [mueller915@yahoo.com](mailto:mueller915@yahoo.com); 315-345-8675. Students will be required to purchase a copy of this text. Application and Fee (\$15) check written to UNYAC should be sent to Robert Mueller, 4432 Lathrop Dr. Marcellus NY 13108

**IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO BE THINKING ABOUT  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!!  
JULY 8 – 12, 2024  
For Children entering Grades K-5**



**Youth entering grades 6 and above** can join us as counselors, guides, and helpers!

**Adult helpers** are needed for each station: crafts, science, music, recreation , and snacks. Storyteller Jeff Hodge is also looking for **actors** to give life to each day's Bible Story! Email Jeff Hodge or Janet Brooks with your availability and area of expertise!  
[JHodge312@yahoo.com](mailto:JHodge312@yahoo.com); [JBrooks48@aol.com](mailto:JBrooks48@aol.com)

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**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. 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.



04/03 Heidi Kieskowski  
Abrahm Cavaliere  
04/07 Jared Kenney  
Bonnie Abbott  
04/08 Dave Berube

04/09 Patty Maxwell  
Mary Anita Berry  
04/11 Megan Ransiear  
04/12 Barbara Jones  
04/15 Annabelle Horan  
04/16 Jeanne Pray  
04/17 Gerard Slate  
Jackson McMahon  
04/18 Anna Morgan  
04/21 Brian Phelps

04/21 Elizabeth Monaco  
04/22 Jessie Olin  
Kaiden Smith  
04/24 Clara (Derby) DeLapp  
04/25 Paul Ransiear  
Jennifer Alfieri  
04/28 Linda Honicker  
Nicholas Alfieri  
04/29 Anne Monaco  
04/30 Bill Beall



### **Thank you for your prayers and support!**

Friends, thank you so much for all the prayers and good wishes for my cross-cultural immersion trip to South Africa. Seventy-five people came to the covered dish luncheon and presentation on March 9! I was overwhelmed by your attendance and attention. It was such a blessing and privilege to share pictures and stories with you! Thank you to Sharon Cook for taking charge of the arrangements on the 9<sup>th</sup> and my colleagues and friends Pastors Bill and Susan for supporting me in all three stages (pre, post and during) the trip!

– Pastor Jeff

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### **The BFUMC/BNS Easter Egg-stravaganza was a “Hoppy” Occasion!**

