

The Visitor



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Rev. William Mudge 315-292-0850

Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

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Rev. Gordon Knapp 315-200-1250

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George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

IN THIS ISSUE

Congregational Care & Family Ministries Page 2

Holy week at BFUMC Page 2

Celebrating Volunteers of the Year Page 3

S.A.M.A.S.A.N. Page 4

Eureka! Book Club Page 5

Advanced UMC Lay Servant Course Page 5

Church Office: 315-635-6442

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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 **MAY**
must be submitted to the church office
by **April 15th**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



From the Pastor's Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

“When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will love, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” John 11:17-27 NRSV

I would like to invite you to plan to join us for one of, if not THE high point of our Christian Calendar and life together as a faith community. As our ancestors in faith designated Passover as the first Sabbath after the first full moon, following the vernal (or spring) equinox, we also set aside this observation for our celebration of Resurrection Sunday – Easter.

The life and death of Jesus of Nazareth is an amazing gift and divides history in two! While it would be hard to over-state the importance of these events, I believe that they would have been relegated as footnotes in time had it not been for that third day after the crucifixion of Jesus – The Resurrection changes everything!

We read together the story of Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary. John's Gospel tells us that they were faithful friends of Jesus who lived in Bethany. Jesus often retreated there for rest, fellowship and restoration. Read John 11 again as you prepare for this year's Easter Celebration – see how disappointed Martha and Mary are that their friend delayed in coming to their aid. Perhaps you and I have experienced these feelings in our own faith journey.

Jesus understood their human feelings, in fact Jesus wept over their pain and disappointment. But Jesus had a larger, eternal purpose – Jesus came to conquer sin and death for all humanity!

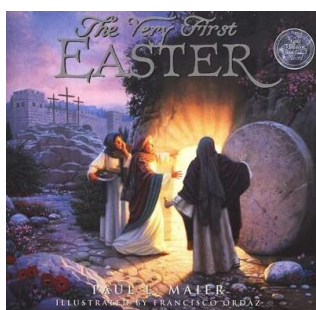
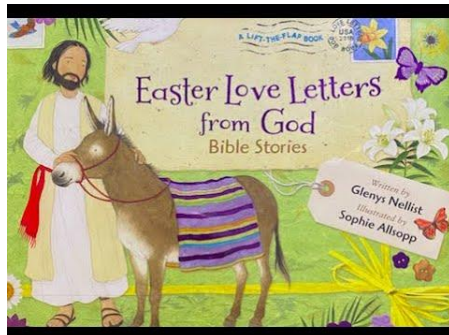
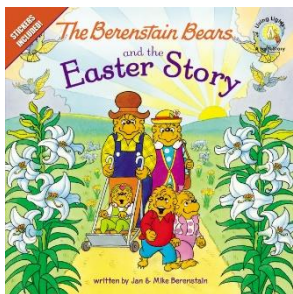
Come and join us for worship during Holy Week this year. Experience and remember the Seder Supper with us on Thursday April 6th at 7pm. Join us as we gather with our sisters and brothers in Pennellville for a Tenebrae service on Good Friday evening at 7pm. We will celebrate the Son Rise at sunrise on Easter morning at Mercer Park at 7am, and we'll gather 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 9:20am 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

April 2023



Share the Gift of Easter this Season

There are many ways to tell and share the Easter story with your family this Easter. Here are a few ideas:

Living Lights: The Berenstain Bears and the Easter Story by Jan Berenstain and Mike Berenstain; Zonderkidz, 2012, Trade Paperback;
Easter Love Letters from God by Glenys Nellist, illustrated by Sophie Allsop, Zondervan, 2024, Hardcover,
The Very First Easter, softcover by Paul L. Maier, Concordia Publishing House, 2004, Paperback; Resurrection Eggs – (available at Christianbook.com); DIY:
The Easter Story in Eggs - Resurrection Eggs - Teach Beside Me



Holy Week at BFUMC

Maundy Thursday Service

April 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

Good Friday Stations of the Cross – April 7

12:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the chapel; Self-guided experience.

Joint Service Good Friday Tenebrae Service with Pennellville UMC at Pennellville, 389 County Route 54 -- at 7:00 p.m. – Service of shadows, featuring candlelight, music, and Good Friday readings.

Of Continued Concern:

Sally Graham, Dave Horan, Elijah Huling, Pat Kline, Jim Larmondra, Cheryl Metrick, Robert Yeddo, **Janet McIntosh** (The Bridges at Highland, 215 Highland Circle Dr., #115, Portland, TN 37148), **Susan Ranous**

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
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,
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:

Lisa & Dave Kane and family on the passing of her mother, Janet R. Hazen
India Dancil and family (Betty Morrow's great-granddaughter) on the passing of her father, Samuel Dancil
Karen Pickard and family on the passing of her child, Maya Marshall Pickard
Clara Trew and family on the passing of her nephew, Richard Lukins
Family & friends of Jack N. Ferguson, who was a member of the United Methodist Men

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster, Mildred Long, Janet McIntosh

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Cunningham #504
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #332B
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401
Clara Rose Thomas – Brewster House (PT)
(41 S. Main St., Homer, NY 13077; 609-218-6336)
Jim Tudman – Syracuse Home #204

Baldwinsville Volunteer of the Year!

Every year the B'ville Volunteer Center takes the time to celebrate the wonderful volunteers in our community. Two outstanding volunteers are selected to receive this annual award which has been presented since the early 1960s.

This year, the two honorees are **Sally Dayger** and **Bill Mercer**.

The event will take place at 5:00 p.m. on **April 22nd** at Pasta's on the Green at Foxfire Golf Course. The cost is \$30.00 per person and there are reservation forms in the church office.

(in the printed newsletter, the date listed is wrong (April 10), please let anyone you know of this error.)

S.A.M.A.S.A.N. International Day

SAMASAN will have its “Taste of Poland” event in the church dining room on **Saturday, April 15**. We will gather at 11:45 a.m. and at 12:00 p.m. our very enthusiastic speaker from the Syracuse Polish Home will introduce us to Polish history, cuisine, and culture. We will enjoy an authentic meal prepared at the Polish National Church in Lakeland. The cost per person is \$15.00 to be paid by April 8. Checks should be made out to Norma Widmann and sent to her address: 7720 Jonas Way, Baldwinsville, NY 13027. You can find us at church or by phone: Ann Horan 638-2407; Joyce Ramseyer 720-5224; Norma Widmann 345-8618

Lost Members:

In a comprehensive review of our membership records we have found we have no contact information for these church members.

We are listing them in the first step of the process listed in the Book of Discipline. If you have addresses or any information about these people, please put it in writing and give to the church secretary.

Shirley Acker	Kathleen Fowler	Charles & Doreen Purin
James & Karen Aiken	Ruth Furco	(Carrie, Christie, Peter, children)
Margaret & Myles Anderson (Bennett & Tyler, children)	Florence Gooden	Robert & Sharity Reese
Mark & Michelle Arthur (Mary Ellen, child)	Tim Haenichen	Kristin Sammartino
Nancy Assenheimer	Jin Woo & Seunghee Jang	Erin Sandord,
Ryan Assenheimer	Linda Johnson	Mark & Nancy Schafer
Alice Baas	Scott Johnston	Frank Schaub
Tim & Val Boda	Susan Jordan	Beverly Scott
Penny Brown	Reta Karan	Damian Scott
Charlie & Cheryl Bryant	Arthur Kenney	Peter & Beverly Shepard
Robert & Gail Burns	John & Donna King (Johnny, child)	Steve & Maria Shockney
Joan Campbell	Stephanie Kramer	Charles & Eileen Smith
Lynn Campbell (Susan, child)	David Laffin	Chaunna Spaulding
Mark & Beth Christensen	Shelley Lamas	Lisa Steinfest
Dorothy Clary	Jessica Larmondra	John & Linda Stiefel
Cheryl Conrad	Amy McBride	Jim & Rachel Summerville
Erin Crandon	Andrea Miller	David Thomas
Jeane Custin	Anne Marie Miller	Victoria Ujlaky
Sandra Denniston	Todd Nelson	Beryl Warden
Karen DiPietro	James Nobles	Helen Whitely
Terry Dowd	Ali Olsen	Martha Whitney
Ben Ekross	Mark Ozelek	Scott & Barbara Williams
Buck & Lora Fenton	Kathy Peets	Diona Williams
Sharon Fien	Brian & Cynthia Phuntek	Kathy Williams
Joyce Ford	Nancy Porter	Keith & Tawny Birmingham-Williams
	Ruth Powers	

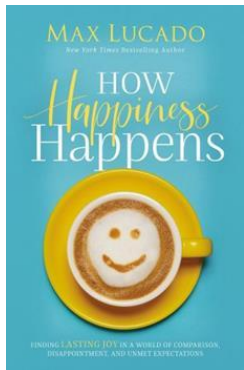


April BIRTHDAYS

04/03 Heidi Kieskowski
 Abraham Cavalieri
 04/07 Jared Kenney
 Bonnie Abbott
 04/08 Dave Berube

04/09 Patty Maxwell
 Mary Anita Berry
 04/10 Richard Stafford
 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
 Elizabeth Monaco
 04/22 Jessie Olin
 04/24 Clara DeLapp
 04/25 Paul Ransiear
 Jennifer Alfieri
 04/28 Linda Honicker
 Nicholas Alfieri
 04/29 Anne Monaco
 04/30 Bill Beall

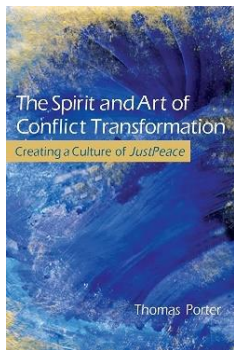


Eureka! Book Club book for April:

April 25 at 6:30 p.m. - *How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment and Unmet Expectations* by Max Lucado.

Our culture tries to convince us there is one way to happiness: aspire, acquire, desire, retire. Happiness depends on what we hang in our closet, park in our garage, and deposit in our bank account. Yet, it's a path that always fails to deliver. In this video Bible study, bestselling author Max Lucado looks at several "one another" statements in the Bible that reveal how the happiest people on earth.

Lay Servants Lead in Conflict Resolution -- Advanced UMC Lay Servant Course



The Advanced Lay Speaking course is based upon transforming conflict into a positive rather than a negative force, and is a spiritual pursuit grounded in the Biblical principles of love of God, neighbor, and self. Part 1 explains how to prepare ourselves for the work of engaging conflict. Part 2 explores how to engage others in conflict transformation and outlines specific processes. Interwoven with the practical instructions are stories that illustrate this potential for conflict resolution.

This two-day course will be 6:00 – 9:00 PM on Friday, May 5 and 8:00 AM - 1:30 PM on Saturday, May 6, at the Pennellville UMC, 389 County Route 54, Pennellville, NY.

The course will be presented by Rev. Jeff Hodge (JHodge312@yahoo.com)

The text for this course is The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of JustPeace, 2010, and authored Thomas Porter. ISBN 10: 0835810267, ISBN 13: 9780835810265. Available at Amazon, Cokesbury, and perhaps your church's library.

Students are required to have a copy of the book. Please read it before the course begins.

Application and Fee (\$15) check written to UNYAC, which should be sent to: Robert Mueller, 4432 Lathrop Dr., Marcellus, NY 13108