

The Visitor



Pastor

Rev. William Mudge 315-292-0850

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"

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:5-7 NRSV

I heard a story recently that made me smile. I offer it to you here as an invitation to come home this holiday season and join our friends and family at the Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church. This story was written by Dr. John MacArthur, and it speaks to me of our need for fellowship, our need for each other.

The Lonely Ember

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

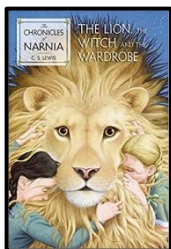
As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday." by Dr. John MacArthur

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. Christmas Eve services are 6:00PM children's pageant, 8:00PM worship and 10:00PM communion – we'll save you a seat!

In Grace and Peace, Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Eureka! Book Club on Monday, December 10: The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe



Join us as we explore the book "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" at our next meeting on Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. Joyce Ramseyer is the book host; Pastor Jeff is our meal host. Please call the office to reserve for the meeting.

Here are some details about the book: "Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice. Open the door and enter a new world! *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is the second book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, which has been captivating readers of all ages with a magical land and unforgettable characters for over sixty years. (Amazon.com)

Advent Resources for Families

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for and need of forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. (Umc.org/advent) Here are some online materials to help you observe and celebrate the seasons at home:

Advent for kids:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/new-ways-to-celebrate-advent-with-kids>

99 cent Advent Wreath for Home:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/the-99-cent-advent-wreath>

Family devotions:

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/make-room-for-christmas-advent-devotions>

Hymn devotions:

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/wesley-hymn-devotions-for-advent-and-christmas>



We're celebrating Epiphany with our friends at Syracuse Home

Join us for a moving, entertaining and worship-filled intergenerational Epiphany Party worship on Sunday, January 5 at 3:00 p.m. at Syracuse Home.

Many blessings this Advent and Christmas!

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



Of continued concern:

Harold Crandon, Jeane Custin, Sally Graham, Mary Eleanor Slye

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Patricia Berry, Joan Foster, Mildred Long,
Shirley McMahon, Bob & Lois Minnoe

Diane Allen – Central Park PT

Jennie Austin – Syracuse Home #323 PT

Charles Bordwell – Brookdale Liverpool #53
Marian Britton – St. Camillus
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #419
Jean Disinger – Syracuse Home
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:

Janet McIntosh & family on the passing of
her sister, Mary Alice Cunningham.
Annalissa Kieskowski & family on the passing
of her husband, Joseph Kieskowski.

Friends & Neighbors:

Peter Allen, Diane Allen's husband
Don Child, Stephanie Smith's uncle
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
Bobby Metrick, Cheryl Metrick's nephew
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

Thanks and Praise

Thank you to the Baldwinsville Methodist Men for my new back steps and railing. This was done so well and before the snowflakes were in the air! Ardis Egan

We would like to express to everyone how touched we have been by the outpouring of love and the compassion we have received in response to Kelsey's passing. Thank you all for the many ways you have supported us at this time.

May God Bless, Sharon & Courtney Cook

Worship Schedule

Normal:

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

Dec 1 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Church Conference 10:30 a.m. - MP

Dec 8 – 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion

*Blessing of Christmas Gifts for the
Cpl. Kyle R. Schneider Foundation
during Children's Time on Sunday, December 8*

Dec 15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Dec 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Services:

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

10:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service

Merry Christmas!

*Church Office is closed
December 25 & January 1*

Dec 29 – 1st Sunday after Christmas

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



Youth Group

9 - 12 graders

We gather in the multi-purpose room and will usually meet on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month, as well as other times for special activities and service projects.

Bottle & Can Returns

Do you have returnable bottles and cans in your home? Please consider bringing them to the River Mall Bottle & Can Return Center located at 2265 Downer St., B'ville. All returns benefit the Youth Group. Thank you!!

U.M.W. Christmas Gathering

Hannah-Sarah Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 4 at 12:00 p.m. in the dining room for a Christmas Luncheon & Program. All interested are invited to attend.

Grief Support Group (Hands of Hope)

Please Note: there will not be a regular meeting in December due to the special service on Monday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. (see announcement on page 5)

O.W.L.S.

Our next gathering is on Thursday, December 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the church dining room. (Terry Miller, 315-409-4063)

SAMASAN Christmas Party

Come one, come all, to our SAMASAN Christmas Party on Saturday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the church dining room. Once again we will have a Chinese Gift Exchange. If you are female, please bring a \$10 woman's gift and if you are male, please bring a \$10 male gift labeled accordingly. Looking forward to seeing you all there! Nancy Brotherton, Norma Widmann, Stu Hosler, and Pam Fallesen

2019 Giving Reminder:

Donations for the 2019 tax year must be given to the church no later than 12/31/2019 or mailed to the church in an envelope postmarked no later than 12/31/2019.

Food Collection Sunday is December 1

Needed in December:
stew, chili, spaghetti sauce, and soup.

**Monetary donations are
also gladly accepted.**



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

Prayer Chain



A meeting has been called for members of the Prayer Chain, and anyone interested in joining the group, for Sunday December 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose room. Grab your coffee and join us. After 15 years, Jan Beall is stepping down as chair of the group and Kate Kisselstein will be taking over as of January 1. Lorraine Sahm will continue leading the phone branch of the chain. The group will review the functioning of the Prayer Chain along with a discussion of intercessory prayer. This group of 41 individuals very seldom meets but reaches out in pray to support those in need. Do join us!



Christmas Bazaar – Saturday, December 14, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Youth are welcome to get their Christmas shopping done while caregivers relax with coffee and cocoa. Our multi-purpose room is transformed a holiday shop and children (*escorted by helper elves*) select gifts and have them wrapped for their loved ones for 50¢ each. This annual event allows kids an opportunity to pick out gifts for their families and experience the joy of giving.

(Joni Ellsworth: christianeducation@bvillefirstumc.org)

We are still in need of your donations!

Gift bags (we have plenty of wrapping paper); Tissue paper, bows, tape, and gift tags;

Gifts for men, women, and children of all ages, but especially gifts for men!

Items can be brought to the church office.

We also need ‘elves’ to make it all come together.

Please sign up to help in any way you can. There are sign-up sheets on the buffet table in the back of the Sanctuary or by the church office.

WOW! – Did you know . . . ?

Shelley Hoffman, was selected the 2019 Greater Baldwinsville Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) Business Person of the Year.

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



12/01 Sierra Burke
Erin Simmonds

12/02 Ella Smith
Tod Monroe

12/05 Barbara Derby

12/07 Beverly Archer
Beth Cavalieri

12/08 Janet Wojnovich
Joshua Doback

12/09 Faith Scheemaker
Penny Sweeney

12/10 Pamela Fallesen
Donald Burke, III

12/12 Mary Huling
Harriet Mark

12/14 Ethan Wojnovich
Joan Ellsworth

12/15 Marcia Thompson
Ryan Radicello

12/16 Jill Kantak

12/17 Jared Kantak

12/18 Jadyn Kantak

Frank Bahamonde

12/20 Elisabeth Scheemaker
Adam Pacheck

12/22 Suzanne Ellis
Sean Stewart

12/26 Lorraine Sahm
Collin Thompson

Michael Weaver
Sally Smith

12/30 Kyle Hunsberger

12/31 Raven Klint
Molly Oyer



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*