

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

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 **JANUARY**
must be submitted to the church office
by **December 15th**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



From the Pastors Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:37 & 38 NIV

I have a real Christmas disability that I need to confess – so I included verse 37 above to ask you not to judge me.

Here it is – I have to do most of my Christmas gift shopping at the last minute, because if I have the gifts in my possession, I am very likely to give them to people in advance. I can't wait until Christmas morning. Minutes after I purchase the gift or before the FedEx truck is out of sight, I am handing over the gift with no restraint. I have suffered from this malady all of my life. I hope that you can hear this weakness and still accept me as a friend and pastor. "Hi, my name is Bill, and I am an early gifter."

If you have attended the Baldwinsville First UMC in the last 2 ½ years, or if you are listening to our services on line you have probably heard me share this quote; *"Humans are not rational beings, they are beings that rationalize."* With this truth in mind, I pondered this predisposition of mine to give gifts prematurely. The only rationale that offered any comfort is that giving, and giving extravagantly, is the model that I see in our God.

The first scripture that most Christians learn is John 3:16. **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** Interesting, isn't it, that this Christmas celebration is built all around this extravagant nature of God and God's love of giving. Take a moment to think about that and the feeling that you get when you give a good gift. It is a Godly, holy part of our design!

This Christmas will be a little different for us. We will spread out our Christmas celebration over several days to help social distance and keep our church family as safe as possible. But we will still pause to remember the greatest and first Christmas gift of all – God sent Jesus to redeem a fallen and lost world. Praise God.

I hope this Christmas season that you will also consider making a gift to our Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church. There are options for electronic giving, and the postal service still delivers mail almost every day to 17 West Genesee Street, Baldwinsville NY 13027. The COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on our financial health, and this will be a great chance to help us finish 2020 strong. Thank-you in advance for your faithfulness!

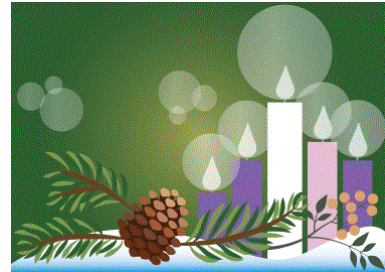
Come and join us for church Sunday morning at 9AM for our Heritage worship service in the sanctuary, or at 11AM for our new Contemporary service featuring Nairobi Smith leading worship in the chapel. We'll save you a socially distanced seat. (the 9AM and 11AM services will be live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube)

Serving Christ with You, Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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>





Friends & Neighbors:

*Kathy Thomas,
Mary Thomas' granddaughter-in-law
a local nurse volunteering to help in NYC*

Peter Allen, Diane Allen's husband
Don Child, Stephanie Smith's uncle
Barbara Church, Harlow Kisselstein's sister
Brent Ellsworth, Candy Johnson's nephew
Joseph Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen
Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother
Marjorie Heck, Shari Mudge's mother
Nola Marotta, friend of Diane Nolan
Scott Maxwell, Rocky Maxwell's brother
Marj Miller, Alice Nykaza's aunt
Linda Munson, Marsha Plucinik's sister-in-law
Blakely Nowicki (infant), Kisselstein family
Melissa Sullivan Ricotta,
Bonnie & Millard Sullivan's daughter
Judy Scott, friend of the Benton's
Zachary Thomas, Mary Thomas' grandson
Colyn Thompson, Alice Nykaza's nephew
Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury
Kristin Hebblethwaite Walter,
Judy Sugar-Giordano's niece
Leona Vallier, cousin of Pam Fallesen

Pray for our Service Men & Women:

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

Sympathy to:

Rev. Gordon & Janet Knapp on the
passing of his sister, Joyce Clinch
Diane Eastman & family on the
passing of her brother, Scott Kent
Walter Maihofer & family on the passing
of his son, Jason Maihofer
Lois Minnoe & family on the passing of
her husband, Robert Minnoe
Joan & Nancy Weber on the passing of
husband/father, Frederick Weber
Mary Eleanor Slye & family on the passing of
her husband, Fred Fuess
Alice Nykaza & family on the passing of
her uncle, John Miller

Of Continued Concern:

Rev. Voigt Archer, Harold Crandon, Helen Falge,
Gerry Foster, Sally Graham, Robert Yeddo

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

*Patricia Berry, Joan Foster,
Mildred Long, Shirley McMahon*
Diane Allen – Central Park #118 PT
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale Liverpool #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #306B
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #517
Oscar Jensen – Loretto #261 (PT)
(671-1714; 720-2965)
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #455
Lois Minnoe – Syracuse Home #304
Betty Morrow – Loretto-Cunningham #1015
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Jim Tudman – McHarrie Pointe #317
Patricia Tudman – Syracuse Home #223

Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau

Every year the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau provides needy families in our community with toys, clothing, books, food, and household items. Last year, because of generous donors like you, we were able to help 165 families in the Baldwinsville community have a happy Christmas and Holiday Season. Each family received toys for the children, food for the family, boots and winter coats if needed, and household items such as towels, sheets, and warm blankets. This year more than ever, due to Covid-19, we will need to 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.

Any size donation can help our local families. Monetary donations are used to buy specific items that we need that are not donated such as winter coats, snow boots, warm blankets, or even a specific toy that a child has asked for from Santa. We also use monetary donations for gift cards to local stores!

We encourage businesses, groups, and individuals to take up collections of items for the Christmas Bureau. For team/group efforts, please call Lauri Bernstein, Christmas Bureau Coordinator, at (315) 727-5435. We always have plenty of specific needs and requests that could be purchased by you or your group!

Thank you so much for any help you can give. If donating money, please make checks payable to the Baldwinsville Volunteer Center and note "Christmas Bureau" in the memo area. You can also donate via PayPal by going to bvillevolunteers.org and following the "Donate Today" link (**please be sure to write Christmas Bureau where it says add a note**). Donations can also be mailed to our new office at 8220 Loop Rd., Suite 101 in Baldwinsville or dropped off at our site during open hours (noted below).

This year (using Covid-19 precautions per NYS guidelines) we will be located in the same spot as last year, the former Olympia Sports storefront next to the TOPS grocery store off Downer Street in Baldwinsville. Please call me at the phone number above with any and all questions!

Christmas Bureau 2020 Donation Drop Off

November 28 – December 14

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

CHRISTMAS 2020



Youth Service: Live Nativity

Join us for a different take on a favorite Christmas Tradition!

Because of the pandemic, we are taking precautions to make it safe for participants and audience alike.

This year the Live Nativity will be a drive-thru, led by the youth of our church.

Join us to relive the Nativity Story: **Sunday December 20, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

If you would like to help the youth with this project,
please contact Janet Brooks (315-635-6416) or Rev. Jeff Hodge (315-383-4384)



Christmas Eve Services

(Masks are required)

7:00 p.m. at the Mercer Park Gazebo

9:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary
with choir music and candle lighting

Please Note: **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** for the 9:00 p.m. service.

Call the church office, Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Longest Night: A Service of Remembrance & Hope

The Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church
is offering a new special ONLINE ONLY Church Service to the Community.

The Longest Night: A Service of Remembrance and Hope will be available to view
ONLINE ONLY, beginning Sunday, December 13, 2020.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one or other losses, 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. All are welcome to view the service online, regardless of church affiliation.

If you would like a candle to be lit and your deceased loved one's name read out loud, during this pre-recorded service, please call the Church Office, with their name, by 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 4, 2020.

<http://www.bvillefirstumc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/bvillefirstumc>

If any questions, contact the Church Office at 315-635-6442 or
secretary@bvillefirstumc.org



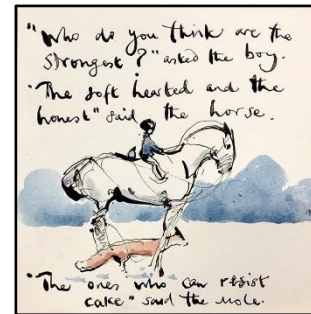
Eureka! Book Club

Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.:

“The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse” by Charlie Mackey



Join us via zoom for our discussion of this delightful and thought-provoking book by Charlie Mackey. If you are interested, but do not usually participate, please contact the office. The book is available at several book sellers for between \$14 and \$18. We will have a power point of the book to aid our discussion.



Many blessings this Advent and Christmas! -- Jeff

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Thanks and Praise

Hi Friends at BFUMC,
Thanks for being patient. I'm slow at the business stuff. Arch was much more efficient. We are holding our own with the help of nurses and therapists. Many thanks for the prayers and cards. Blessings, Beverly Archer

Thanks to all of you who said prayers and had my family in your thoughts at this sad time when we lost Michael. What a beautiful church family! Janet Wojnovich

Thank you for all your kindness when my sister, Carol Smith, passed. She had not been well for some time. I now live in Millsboro, DE and hearing from so many people made me very "home sick". Sincerely, Beverly Frank

Christmas Bell Ringer

It was something of a lark,
on the corner of Jefferson and Salina,
ringing a bell for the Salvation Army.

It was only for an hour...
too short a time to freeze the feet
or chill the bones.

No doubt I'd spy familiar faces
upon whom I could put a friendly "bite"
for folding money only.

It started out a lark, but soon became a lesson,
as well-dressed people hurried past
to buy another present someone didn't need.
People who blessed the kettle with a little change
were those it seemed might better
have taken something out.

I even recognized a donor who often
stopped at the church to "hit me up"
for spending money... grinning at me
as he redistributed the wealth.

So, on Jefferson and Salina Street that Christmas
again, I was reminded why Our Lord was apt
to speak so lovingly of the poor.

G.W. Knapp



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

12/09 Faith Scheemaker
Penny Sweeney
12/10 Pamela Fallesen
Donald Burke, III
12/12 Mary Coogan
Harriet Mark
12/14 Ethan Wojnovich
Joan Ellsworth
12/15 Marcia Thompson
Ryan Radicello
12/16 Jill Kantak
12/17 Jared Kantak

12/18 Jady Kantak
Frank Bahamonde
12/20 Elisabeth Scheemaker
Adam Pacheck
12/22 Suzanne Ellis
Sean Stewart
12/26 Lorraine Sahm
Collin Thompson
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 7.*** You may also place your order in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Any questions, call the church office (635-6442).

POINSETTIAS: (\$8.00 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*