

The Visitor



DECEMBER

2022

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

Worship Leader

Nairobi O. Smith 585-944-7421

Music Director

Nancy B. James 315-256-7509

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Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

Bookkeeper

Rod Porter 315-247-7426

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George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

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Church Office: 315-635-6442

Fax: 315-635-6963

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

[Church Calendar](#)



From the Pastor's Desk

"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 this Sunday morning at 9:00 A.M. for our Heritage worship service featuring our choir and familiar hymns. Stop in for Praise and Contemporary worship at 6:00 P.M. on Friday nights. We have pizza and fellowship and a great time together! It has been exciting to have our church family returning and worshipping together! Come and join the fun. We'll save you a seat!

In Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge, Congregational Care & Family Ministries

December



Advent Calendars are a meaningful way to Countdown to Jesus' birth. Advent calendars are a fun and popular children's Advent activity as well as a great catechesis tool. Advent calendars teach children to join with the Church in the waiting, expectation, and preparation of the coming of Jesus Christ.

The Advent Calendar is believed to have been created by Christians in the early 19th century to mark the days of Advent leading up to Christmas. The first known Advent calendar was handmade in Germany in 1851. **Be sure to pick up your free advent calendars in the education wing, lobby or the dining room** and enjoy opening a new window each day as you journey closer to Christmas!

Advent Resources for Families

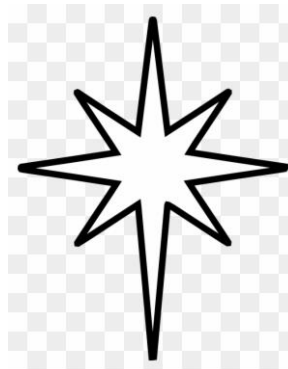
The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.

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.

This year's Live Nativity is a "Moving" Experience!

Join us on **Sunday, December 18** for a moving experience as our Nativity Characters journey through the village and make their way to the manger scene on the church's property on Genesee Street. The Nativity begins outside at 2:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m. you are invited inside for a Birthday celebration for Jesus that includes refreshments, music, and a pinata.

This church and community celebration, which first started in 2008 at BFUMC, takes a lot of help. Please consider being part of this special event as we share the Christmas story with the B'ville community.



Of Continued Concern:

Joyce Berube, Sally Graham, Dave Horan,
Elijah Huling, Pat Kline, Jim Larmondra,
Janet McIntosh, Shirley McMahon,
Cheryl Metrick, Justin Taylor, Robert Yeddo

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
Marjorie Heck, Shari Mudge's mother
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
Ruthie Nolan,
Jeanne & Wes Pray's granddaughter
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, James Scott Gibbs,
Casey Hargrave, Jeffrey Lucy,
Dr. Kristen Lucy, Jeffrey Meany,
Brandon Merle, Benjamin Nordmark,
Tyler Reynolds, Peter Slye, Richard Slye



Sympathy:

Sally Smith & family on the passing of
her mother, Betty Marshall
Kathy VanWie & family on the passing of her
sister-in-law, Annette Dullen

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster, Mildred Long

Bill Barrett – Sedgwick Heights #124A
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #332B
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Mary Dow – Park Terrace
Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #517
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401
Jim Tudman – Syracuse Home #204

Advent Study via zoom begins on Wednesday, November 30

This year's advent study, The Dawn Chorus – *An Advent Devotional on the Wonder of Birds* will be held on zoom, beginning on Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. This is a joint study for Baldwinsville First and Pennellville UMC. There is no cost, but you must be registered to participate to receive the zoom link.

Songbirds know a thing or two about singing into darkness: in the wee hours of the morning, before the sun appears over the horizon, they begin a great symphony that scientists call the "dawn chorus."

Advent is the church's dawn chorus. In this devotional designed for families of all shapes and sizes, we walk with scripture through the season's four weeks of hope, peace, joy, and love, singing into shadows and looking to the light.

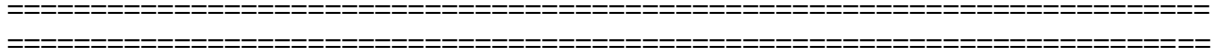
A notice will be sent weekly with an agenda/study plan as well as some supplemental materials.

Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m.: Week One: HOPE

Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.: Week Two: PEACE

Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.: Week Three: JOY

Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.: Week Four: LOVE



S.A.M.A.S.A.N. Christmas Party

Saturday December 10 at 3:00 p.m.
in the Church Dining Room

Come join the fun as we celebrate the Holidays.

Bring a gift to exchange/steal.

Limit the gift to \$10 please.

Also, bring a plate of Christmas Cookies to share.

Confirm your attendance to:

Patty Maxwell: 315-569-5077;

email: pjmax9@gmail.com

Rocky Maxwell: 315-488-5700;

email: gmaxwell995@gmail.com



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 4 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).

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Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau 2022



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

Our church will be collecting small gift cards to deliver to the Christmas Bureau. \$5-\$10 cards at places like McDonald's, Subway, Taco Bell, Dunkin' Donuts, Target, and Walmart would be welcomed gifts for teenagers.

Donation drop-off open: November 26 - December 12
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!



The Children's Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, December 10, 2022!
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Children's Bazaar

We welcome the following donations:

- Gift bags and tissue paper
- Gifts for men, women, and children of all ages

We also need the help of all available “elves”! Please let us know if you can help in any of the following ways:

- **Bake** for the parent's waiting room Coffee House (bring baked goods to the church by **Friday, Dec. 9**)
- **“Man”** the Coffee House table and keep the coffee pot full (**Saturday, December 10: 8:45am – noon**)
- Be a **gift wrapper** (**Saturday, Dec. 10: 9am-noon**)
- **Supervise** the entrance to the shopping area to let children in to shop.
- Help **set up** the multi-purpose and dining rooms on **Friday, December 9** (about **11:30 – after Nursery School**)
- Help **clean up** on **Saturday, December 10** after the bazaar

And especially for youth, grades 6 and above:

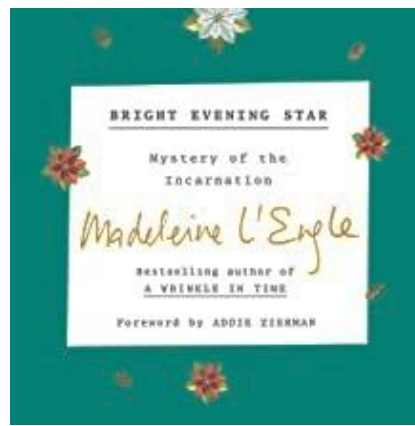
Be a shopping “elf” to help children choose appropriate gifts,
the children especially love to shop with the teens!

Please let Janet Brooks (JBrooks48@aol.com) or Jeff Hodge (JHodge312@yahoo.com) know how you can help with this fun activity. It has been on hold since the Pandemic and the children love to be able to shop in secret and surprise family and friends on Christmas.



**Our Family Christmas Eve Service
6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24**

It is an interactive service in our multi-purpose room
that brings the Christmas Story alive for all ages



**Eureka! Book Club for December
We will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.**

We gather at 6:00 p.m. for anyone who wants to bring their meal and enjoy table fellowship. Our final book of 2022 is– Bright Evening Star: Mystery of Incarnation – Madeline L'Engle, the author of A Wrinkle In Time. Bright Evening Star provides a glimpse into the life stories of this prolific author and her encounters with God. With a foreword by John Tesh, L'Engle invites us on a spiritual adventure that leads to hope, joy, and a closer relationship with Jesus. "Christmas," says Madeleine L'Engle, "should be a time of awed silence." If you're looking for a unique and Christ-centered Christmas meditation, *Bright Evening Star* will be a rich and delightful discovery – year-round! (from Amazon.com)

Books are available on Kindle -- \$10.99,
Audiobook, 1 credit;
Paperback, \$16.00.
Also check your local library.

Thanks and Praise

On Saturday, November 12, at the SAMASAN Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau Book Benefit Party, 15 people attended. We had fun hearing the comical and far-fetched adventure stories created, using the just donated book titles/characters.

So far this year, BFUMC has generously collected over 50 books for the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau.

Through Sunday, December 12, the Church will be continuing to collect new and excellent condition books for men, women, or children of any age, that has non-religious content.

Your book donations can be placed in a drop-off box **INSIDE**, at either the Church Front door or the Church Office door. Thank you for your generous donation of books!"



Fall Fete Follow-up

We are trying to locate a few baskets that were filled with apples and on the dining room tables during the Fall Fete. They were left on a table in the bride's room and were moved before everyone had a chance to pick them up. These belong to church members who were kind enough to let us use them. We have checked the kitchen, the

Food Pantry, the Sacristy, the upstairs storage area and cannot find them. If you helped clean up that day maybe you were in a discussion about where to put them. If you locate them, please leave them in the office and let Lisa know they are there. Thank you.



Free Books!

In an effort to update the Library, the Library Committee has decided to pull some books from the collection. Most of these books have been sitting on the shelves for many years. The books are fiction/novels for all readers, with a few religious books. They are free to anyone interested. Please take as few or as many as you would like. We will be adding more books when space becomes available on the shelves. Enjoy!



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
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
Charlotte Georger
Frank Bahamonde
12/19 Wyatt McCaleb
12/20 Adam Pacheck
Elisabeth Scheemaker
12/22 Sean Stewart
Suzanne Ellis
12/26 Sally Smith
Lorraine Sahm
Collin Thompson
12/30 Kyle Hunsberger
12/31 Raven Klint



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

POINSETTIAS: (\$8.50 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*