

The Visitor



Pastor

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Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

Pastor Emeritus

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**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 **FEBRUARY**
must be submitted to the church office
by **January 15th**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



From the Pastors Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lamentations 3:22-24 NRSV

Happy New Year! It seems like yesterday that I sat at this desk to write a note about the new year in 2019, it couldn't be more than a few weeks ago, could it? The calendar tells me that my perception does not coincide with the reality of the day. The year of our Lord 2019 is past. The New Year 2020 spreads out before us full of hope and challenges.

A year ago, I wrote encouraging people to look ahead to the year 2020 and seek a vision for different areas of our lives to work on. I targeted specific areas of my physical, spiritual and financial life and prayerfully set goals for each area. I then made a plan to address each area, planning for a better 2020. I visited with a friend last week about this process and he said with a wry smile, "I planned to save \$1,000.00 dollars in 2019 – only \$1,500.00 to go to meet the goal!"

I have to admit, I have had mixed results as well. While I have made progress in each area towards the goals I set I am not where I need to be. On top of that, I see new areas that need attention! Thanks be to God for these words of encouragement and hope provided by our loving creator, **"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."** Lamentations 3:22-24 NRSV

I invite you to join me in a fresh attempt at achieving some of these 2020 visions. What is the Lord calling on you to address and improve upon this year? Don't be afraid or disappointed. We will walk together and celebrate each improvement and work on each need.

One of my favorite hymns is John Newton's famous "Amazing Grace". John Newton had been Captain of a slave ship who, after his conversion to Christianity became an abolitionist and pastor. I am encouraged by Newton's realization that this journey of faith never ends. I have printed this quote from Newton and I offer it to you here in the New Year.

"I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be!"

As we change our calendars to 2020, come and join us as we seek to set a new vision for this new adventure – let's work together to begin to imagine the best that God might have for us as individuals, as families and as a congregation. Come and join us for worship this Sunday at 9:00 or 10:30 A.M. - we'll save you a seat!

In Grace and Peace, Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Just like the magi, we're traveling for Epiphany!



Epiphany

Join us on Sunday, January 5 as we celebrate Epiphany at Syracuse Home at 3:00 p.m. It will be an intergenerational worship of word and song that will include storytelling, celebration of many traditions, and a musical recital. If you sing, enjoy reading out loud, or play an instrument, please join us for this special day on the road spreading the good news of Jesus Christ!

A Year of Blessing

Dear friends,

It has been such a blessing to minister with you! Words cannot express what a holy privilege it is to serve in this way, extending God's love and sharing the congregations' care with people at some of their most vulnerable times. Perhaps the most meaningful and the most difficult is walking with our families during times of grief. As 2019 comes to a close we continue to lift up the lives of the saints who have gone before us; and hold in our prayers those who grieve their loss. I look forward to our time together in 2020 and wish you every blessing in the new year.

Yours in Christ,
Jeff Hodge (315-383-4384)

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Congregational Care and visitation are an important part of ministering to and with one another. While I coordinate some of our care, many others provide vital ministry, including but not limited to our Cheery Visitors and the Hands of Hope Team. These ministries, led and cared for mainly by laity of the church, are a reflection of Christ's love for us, and an extension of the church's work in the world.

I appreciate the work that each of you does and remind you that a card, an e-mail, a phone call, and a brief visit mean the world to people, particularly at their most vulnerable. I also want to remind you that a one-on-one visit, while nice, isn't always practical. Folks in the hospital may appreciate a quick phone call or note, rather than a personal visit at a time when they are resting or testing. If you do visit, especially in the hospital, keep it brief; and refrain if you have or are coming down with a cold.

If you have a pastoral need or would desire a pastoral call/visit, please call me at 315-383-4384 or let the office know.

Blessings and Peace, Jeff



Of continued concern:

Harold Crandon, Jeane Custin, Sally Graham,
Barbara Kidd (Crouse)

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:

Family & friends of Debbie Davis
Joyce & Dave Berube & family on the passing
of her father, Ralph Wolfe
Nancy Johnson & family on the passing of
her husband, James Johnson
Janet McIntosh & family on the passing of
her nephew, Stephen Cuyler
Tim Link & family on the passing of
his father, George Link

Friends & Neighbors:

Peter Allen, Diane Allen's husband
Matthew Barker, friend of the Metrick's
Don Child, Stephanie Smith's uncle
Brent Ellsworth, Candy Johnson's nephew
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
Linda Munson, Marsha Plucinik's sister-in-law
Melissa Sullivan Ricotta,
Bonnie & Millard Sullivan's daughter
Judy Scott, 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

Thanks and Praise

Wonder"filled" News...The SAMASAN Book Story Night held on Saturday, November 23, 2019 and the Church donated close to 100 new books, for all ages, to benefit the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau and be a blessing to the Baldwinsville Community.

Many thanks to all from the SAMASAN November 2019 Committee:

Smith, Kisselsteins, Ramseyers

Worship Schedule

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

Jan 5 – Epiphany Sunday, Communion

Jan 12 – Baptism of the Lord

Jan 19 – Human Relations Day

Jan 26 – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

*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!!

2019 Committee Chairpersons

If you were a committee chairperson in 2019, your annual report for the year is due into the Church office by January 20, 2020. Thank you!

2020 Bulletin Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor a month of Sunday bulletins (\$125) in 2020, please let the church office know. February–May, August–October are still available.

2020 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2020 are now available. Those who normally use the boxed sets of envelopes may pick them up in the dining room after Sunday services. There are boxes still unassigned. Please keep in mind that these boxes are already paid for by the church so don't be shy if you would like to have a box even if just for the special Sunday offerings throughout the year. Leave your name on the sheet provided to let us know. Please remember the 'Initial Offering' helps to offset the cost of the envelopes.

Food Collection Sunday is January 5

Needed in January:

cereal, veggies, tuna, and soup.

Monetary donations are also gladly accepted.

Men's Tuesday Evening Bible Study

On January 7th at 6:30 PM will begin a 7-week study of Jesus Christ, Our Faith, the Holy Spirit, Empowering to Serve, the Trinity, Belonging, and the Body of Christ. This study is part of the Christian Believer “Knowing God with Heart and Mind”. See you there and then! (George Ramseyer, 315-638-8177).

O.W.L.S.

Our next gathering is on Thursday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the church dining room. (Terry Miller, 315-409-4063)

SAMASAN

Some Are Married And Some Are Not

-Happy and Blessed New Year Wishes to Everyone-The Baldwinsville Community Band will be the featured entertainment for the month of January. A few members of the congregation have been playing in this band for many years. Join us on Saturday, January 18th at 2:00 pm in the multipurpose/dining rooms. After the band performs (approximately 3:00 pm) there will be hot and cold beverages as well as a variety of desserts served. The band members will stay and be our guests for refreshments.



01/01 Brian DeLola

01/03 Susan Lison

01/04 Karen Burke

Brett Pickett

01/05 Barbara Kidd

Melba Lindsey

01/07 Virginia Johnson

01/08 Clara Trew

01/09 Lauren Witter

01/10 Carolyn Dreher

01/10 Joseph Kenney 01/11

Jackie Anderson

Allison Jennings

01/13 William Brotherton

01/14 Nancy Brotherton

Judith Herbs

01/15 Kate Rinn

Chris Wooldridge

01/17 Emerson Derby

Dan DiRenzo

Lisa Schultz

01/19 Janet Ramseyer

01/20 Alan Lindsey

Mary Eleanor Slye

David Smith

01/21 Jennie Hewitt

Donald Metrick

01/22 Jill Evans

01/23 Brianna Stewart

01/24 Olivia Oyer-Halen

Ray Rice

01/28 Stephen Brooks

Tom DiRenzo

01/29 Mildred Long

01/30 Cooper Cielez

Janet Hawley

01/31 Allie Derby



Read the Bible in a Year

Dedicated to Tom McMahon who started this wonderful way of staying connected every day through the year.

“RENEW A GOOD HABIT ... Daily Bible Reading. Sometimes it’s hard to get into the habit of reading the Bible. Here is an easy way to get started. Just pick up a copy of the 2019 Daily Reading Guide. They are in the back of the sanctuary, in the Chapel, outside the church office and inside the church office. You should be able to find one. The guide will lead you through reading the whole Bible in a year. Now that’s a GOOD HABIT.”

WOW! – Did you know . . . ?

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

Annabelle Horan, Baker HS Indoor Track – part of 1st in the 1,500-meter four-runner event at the Jack Morse Kickoff Meet; 6th in the 3,000 at the Oscar B. Jensen Holiday Relays

Lily Horan, Baker HS Indoor Track – part of 3rd in the 4x800 in the Jack Morse Kickoff Meet; 8th in the mile at the Oscar B. Jensen Holiday Relays

Jared Kantak, a senior at Baker High School, was named to the 2019 United Soccer Coaches Fall Boys High School All-Region Team.

Ella Smith, Baker HS Indoor Track – 1st in the pole vault at the Jack Morse Kickoff Meet; 1st in pole vault at the Oscar B. Jensen Holiday Relays

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