

# The Visitor

# March 2021

## 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

## IN THIS ISSUE

Congregational Care Page 2

“Lent in Plain Sight” Page 2

Lenten Study Opportunity Page 2

Eureka! Book Club Page 2

“Hosanna to Hallelujah: Non-stop” Page 4

Easter Lily Order Form Page 5

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](mailto:secretary@bvillefirstumc.org)

Website: [www.bvillefirstumc.org](http://www.bvillefirstumc.org)

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

Articles for the **APRIL**  
must be submitted to the church office  
by **March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



**From the Pastors Desk**

*"A Sheepdogs Tale"*

**“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.” 1**

Thessalonians 5:16-21 NRSV

I remember a year ago when the experts told us all to go home and isolate for two weeks so that we could “flatten the curve” and put this COVID-19 thing behind us. We left the office that day with high hopes that we would still be able to gather for Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday – but that was not to be.

It has been a year! So many things have happened to us and around us these past 12 months. We have watched our country go through the most contentious political season that I remember! Not since the 1960’s have we seen such anger and violence in the streets of our cities. Friends, neighbors, and loved ones have died from this COVID disease and other causes. Jobs have been changed forever, businesses have adapted and/or closed.

In the shadow of this anniversary, I sat and prayed and pondered what I might write to you, my church family, as we look forward to whatever lies ahead of us. As I tried to listen to the Holy Spirit, a sermon that I heard when I was a little boy echoed in my memories.

The preacher was the Rev. Chester Lippy of the Westernville Presbyterian Church. I was very young and my father was in the midst of one of dozens of medical crises that we lived through as a family. Rev. Lippy preached from this text in 1 Thessalonians and called us to give thanks *IN* all situations, not necessarily *FOR* all situations.

Friends, we have MUCH to be thankful for.

Rev. Hae-Jong Kim, a pastor who served as bishop of our area years ago, told the story of his mother’s final request to her children as she was dying. She expressed her great thankfulness for all that God had done in her life and asked her children to make a “Thank Offering” on her behalf to our God who provides for us even in our struggles.

I invite you to join Shari and me this Lenten season in prayerfully considering giving a “Thank Offering” to God for God’s love and provision for us even in this COVID situation. Not **FOR** all circumstances, but **IN** all circumstances! If the Spirit leads you to join me, please label your gift “Thank Offering Lent” – I will report back to you after our Lenten journey culminates in Easter Celebrations the way God moves among us in this Lenten gift.

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)

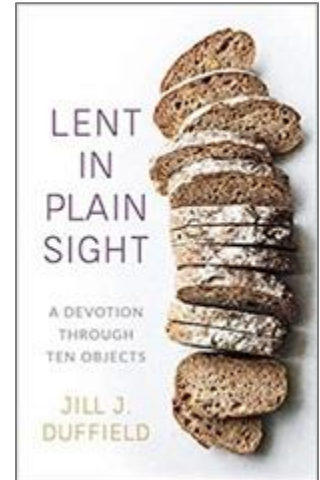
Thanking God for You and with You, Pastor Bill Mudge

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

*Rev. Jeff Hodge, Congregational Care & Family Ministries*

### March 2021

One of the lessons of a difficult year is that we have noticed blessings that were always – right there in plain sight – but because of busyness or some other factors, we have missed them in the past. Being home more, doing things differently, has taught us to see and appreciate things differently; to look at the ordinary differently. In her devotional book, **Lent in Plain Sight**, author Jill J. Duffield identifies ten common objects to focus on as we better understand how God works through the ordinary. “God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace,” Duffield explains. “Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God’s quiet voice.”



I invite you to use this as your devotional throughout this season. As we encounter these common objects each week, it is our prayer that they will help inspire us as we go deeper in our faith this Lenten season. There are three opportunities to supplement your Lenten devotions:

#### **Weekly Mid-Week Reflection**

**Every Thursday, February 25 to March 25 and on Wednesday, March 31**

Pastor Jeff will focus on one of the objects in a weekly reflection, using scripture, and an excerpt and questions from Duffield’s book.

#### **Study Opportunity on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. via zoom**

BFUMC and Pennellville UMC are combining for this weekly Lenten study. If you are interested in receiving a zoom invitation, please let Jeff know ([Jhodge312@yahoo.com](mailto:Jhodge312@yahoo.com) or 315-383-4384 text/call).

**Eureka! Book Club** will discuss the book at its monthly meeting on **Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.** This meeting will focus on the book as a whole with highlights on the most effective parts, specific passages, objects, etc., a discussion of what other ordinary objects could be included, and other devotionals we have found helpful.

(continued on page 4)



**Friends & Neighbors:**

Peter Allen, Diane Allen's husband  
Don Child, Stephanie Smith's uncle  
Barbara Church, Harlow Kisselstein's sister  
Brent Ellsworth, Candy Johnson's nephew  
Tom Disinger,  
brother of Barb Stowe & Sue Vanderveer  
Joseph Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen  
**Kathy Duncan, friend of the Kisselsteins**  
Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother  
Marjorie Heck, Shari Mudge's mother  
**William Hobart, friend of the Kisselsteins**  
Janet Horton, friend of the Kisselstein's  
Evelyn Maihofer, Walter Maihofer's daughter-in-law  
Nola Marotta, friend of Diane Nolan  
Scott Maxwell, Rocky Maxwell's brother  
Linda Munson, Marsha Plucinik's sister-in-law  
Blakely Nowicki (infant), Kisselstein family  
**Milton Pellman, friend of Alice Nykaza**  
Melissa Sullivan Ricotta,  
Bonnie & Millard Sullivan's daughter  
Judy Scott, friend of the Benton's  
Zachary Thomas, Mary Thomas' grandson  
Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury  
Leona Vallier, cousin of Pam Fallesen

**Of Continued Concern:**

Harold Crandon, Helen Falge,  
Gerry Foster, Sally Graham,  
Oscar Jensen, Andy Picco,  
Justin Taylor, Robert Yeddo

**Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:**

*Patricia Berry, Joan Foster,  
Mildred Long, Shirley McMahon*

Bill Barrett – Sedgwick Heights #124A  
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  
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #455  
Lois Minnoe – Syracuse Home #304  
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107  
Jim Tudman – McHarrie Pointe #317  
Patricia Tudman – Syracuse Home #223

**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



**Lent in Plain Sight** by Jill J. Duffield. 2020:

Westminster, John Knox Press, Louisville, KY is available from various booksellers for \$11, but we have it for \$6, payable to Jeff Hodge. There are books in the office (Eureka! bookshelf outside Jeff's office) while supplies last.

**Upcoming Eureka topics:**

April 27 – Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

May 25 – American Dirt –by Jeannine Cummins (led by Ellen Jennings)

June 22– Hidden Among the Stars by Melanie Dobson (led by Bonnie Kisselstein)

**Hosanna to Hallelujah: Non-stop**

The processional of palms  
bids us "join now and sing,"  
And so we shout "Hosanna...save now!"  
as we follow in the Master's train.

Same time, same place, next week  
we march again.  
This time to that great cry of exultation...  
"Hallelujah! He is risen!"

In uninterrupted joy we march  
from Mount of Olives straight to Joseph's garden.  
Non-stop, we pass from hosanna to hallelujah;  
Oblivious to the murmurs of Gethsemane  
and moans of Golgotha.

Blessed are they who wander from this highway  
to that byway called the Via Dolorosa,  
Finding on that darkened path  
that in the sacred drama of salvation,  
Without death there is no Resurrection...  
without a cross the crown is tinsel.

Submitted by Rev. Gordon Knapp



03/03 Holly McMahon  
Molly Lockwood  
Olivia Bartlett  
03/04 Melissa Turner  
Ron Waterbury  
Noah Johnson  
03/05 Reagan Bouchard  
03/06 Jeff Sweeney  
03/07 Lori Driscoll

03/10 Diane Eastman  
Michael Lawrence  
03/11 Carrie Foster  
03/12 Rev. Jeff Hodge  
Chandra Hewitt  
03/13 Tim Maxwell  
Jessica Wallace  
Kelly Carwell  
03/15 Tom Fredette  
03/16 Lori DeLola  
03/17 Eliza McMahon  
Helen Stafford  
03/19 Darcie Lesniak  
Judy Peter

03/20 Linda Kerwin  
03/22 Alice Nykaza  
03/23 Emma Webster  
03/25 Robert Yeddo  
Ryan Hines  
03/26 Reghan Metrick  
Julie Abbott  
03/27 Travis Smith  
03/28 Alex Evans  
Kate Kisselstein  
03/29 Raina Malcolm  
03/30 Rebecca Lawrence

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**EASTER LILIES**

Easter lilies are \$8.50 each. Please use this form or call the church office at 635-6442.

**Orders are needed by March 22.**

**LILIES:** (\$8.50 per plant) No. of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

You can bring this form to the church office or put it in the mail.

Checks should be made payable to:

***First United Methodist Church***

17 W. Genesee St., Baldwinsville, NY 13027