

The Visitor

MAY 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

Secretary

Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

Treasurer

George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

Bookkeeper

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Church Office: 315-635-6442

Fax: 315-635-6963

Normal Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

E-mail: secretary@bvillefirstumc.org

Website: www.bvillefirstumc.org

PLEASE NOTE:

Articles for the **JUNE**
must be submitted to the church office
by **May 15th**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



Pastor's Page

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

“Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” Acts 2:43-47 NRSV

The congregation of the Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church has begun a Ministry Assessment process under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Aaron Bouwens. Our Administrative Council voted last month to undertake this thorough look at our mission, our finances, our gifts, and the Call that God has placed upon us. It is a very exciting process!

A small group of our leaders met in April with Rev. Bouwens to discuss the process for this ministry audit – it is very similar in some ways to a person undergoing a thorough physical exam with their doctor. We will take a look at our vital signs, our strengths and our weaknesses, and we will lay out a plan together for where we will head together as a congregation moving toward greater health and vitality.

I am using this space this month to ask for two things from you.

#1 – PLEASE pray for our congregation! For all of the leaders that work together here from our gifted laity and Church Secretary, to our Baldwinsville First United Methodist Nursery School Director and staff, to our musicians and finance people and our custodians and our pastors. We all need your prayers and encouragement as we work together!

#2 – Take some time to imagine what the future of the Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church might look like. Take a moment to answer these questions and leave them in the offering plate, or email them to us at the church: ***What are our congregations' strengths? What are the challenges we face? What are the future opportunities? Where do you see us in the future as a congregation?***

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 lead by Nairobi Smith 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, but both of these services will be available on-line through Facebook and YouTube. We'll save you a seat!

Serving Christ with You, Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge, Congregational Care & Family Ministries

May 2022



...and a storm of blessings!

May your May be full of many blessings! Each month we send home a special greeting to families who are unable to be with us each week. This month we're blessed to send blessings!

Check out our May blessings in the lobby and dining room.



*There are a lot of exciting things planned for the coming months.
Save these dates:*

Sunday, June 19: First Sunday of Church on the Island (pending village approval). Join us for our 12-week summer worship at 8:00 a.m. every Sunday thru September 4. Our lead-off Preacher is Rev. Patti Walz; Rev. Hannah Benedict will preach on June 26. The full schedule will be available in June.

Sunday, June 19: Graduation Sunday – We will honor the class of 2022 grads during our 9:00 a.m. worship service. If you have a graduate to be honored or for our out-of-town listing, please contact the office.

Monday, June 27 thru Friday, July 1: – Morning Vacation Bible School – We're going to have a Food Truck Party every morning for children entering Kindergarten thru 5th grade.



Sunday, September 11: – **Blessing of the Backpacks & Sundae Sunday** – We will start the school year off right, blessing kids' backpacks and treating everyone to Back to School Sunday Sundaes!

Sunday, September 18: – **Sunday School 2022-2023 School Year begins.**

It is our prayer that we will return to classrooms in the fall. Be in prayer on ways you can help with this important step.

Of Continued Concern:

Phil Bender (St. Joe's), Helen Falge,
Sally Graham, Jim Larmondra,
Shirley McMahan, Cheryl Metrick,
Justin Taylor, Robert Yeddo

Friends & Neighbors:

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
Jim Kelley, stepfather of Pastor Jeff
Richard Marks, friend of Joan Foster
Scott Maxwell, Rocky Maxwell's brother
Blakely Nowicki, Kisselstein family
Charlene Nowicki, Bonnie Kisselstein's sister
Melissa Sullivan Ricotta,
Bonnie & Millard Sullivan's daughter
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 to:

Tish & Gene Evans and family on the passing of
her stepmother, Marion Tetrault
Jackie & Chuck Anderson and family on the passing
of her father, Forrest Athey
Janet McIntosh & family on the passing of
her cousin, Rex Wallace
Family & friends of Donna Lewis
Lisa Ballard & family on the passing of
her mother, Donna Knowlton

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster, Mildred Long, Shirley McMahan

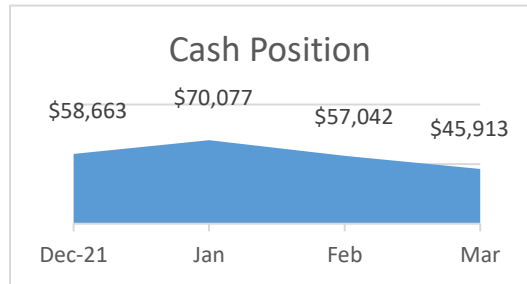
Bill Barrett – Sedgwick Heights #124A
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale Liverpool #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #332B
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #517
Dave Horan – Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital
c/o Dave Horan, Room #273
1270 Belmont Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457
Walter Maihofer – Park Terrace
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401
Jim Tudman – Syracuse Home #204

United Methodist Women

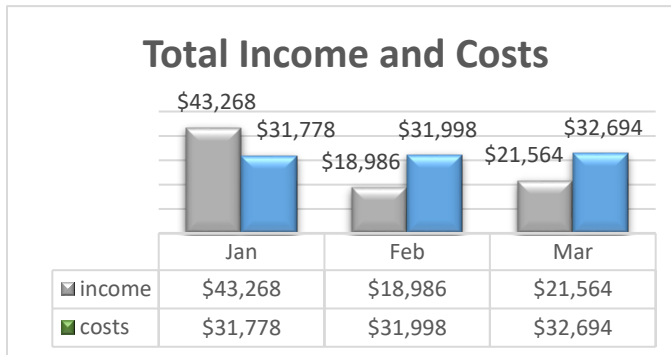
There will be a **U.M.W. Memorial Service**
Wednesday, June 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel.

Finance and Stewardship Committee
 Report on Financial Condition
 For 3 Months Ended March 31, 2022

The financial condition of the church deteriorated in the first 3 months of 2022 as offerings fell 14.2% below 2021 amounts. As a result, the cash available to pay bills fell to \$45.9 thousand at March 31. This represents a decline of \$12.8 thousand. In comparison, the same period in 2021 saw an increase of \$5.1 thousand. Whereas the decline in the cash was not unexpected, the severity of the decline, especially in March is concerning. The cash available represents about 1.25 months of spending.

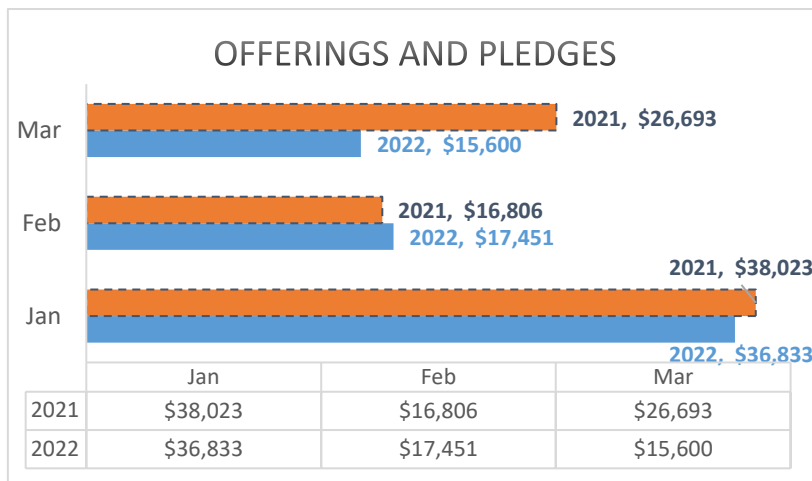


Costs exceeded February and March worry. Total costs for \$96.5 thousand, or 2021. There were no expenses during the with the costs month, averaging this trend continues, 2022 will be about



income for both and are a cause to the quarter were 2.5% higher than extraordinary first three months, consistent each \$32.1 thousand. If total costs for \$390K.

Total income for the first quarter totaled \$83.8 thousand, 15.5% lower than 2021 and is



concerning as we progress towards the summer. Most of the church's income is derived from pledges and offerings. These totaled \$69.9 thousand and trailed 2021 amount by 14.2%. This decrease in actual offerings compares to a budgeted increase of about 5%. For those reluctant to attend services in person due to Covid-19, the church offers the option to make gifts and offering on-line. Anyone interested in

supporting the church in this manner should contact the church office for more details.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee will continue to monitor the church's financial condition and will be offering ideas on how to increase income, or other sources of funds, and areas where costs can be reduced along with participating in the Church Revitalization Project.

Eureka! Book Club
Tuesday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m.
“Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen” by Sarah Bird

Though born into bondage on a “miserable tobacco farm” in Little Dixie, Missouri, Cathy Williams was never allowed to consider herself a slave. According to her mother, she was a captive, bound by her noble warrior blood to escape the enemy. Her means of deliverance is Union general Phillip Henry “Smash ‘em Up” Sheridan, the outcast of West Point who takes the rawboned, prideful young woman into service. At war’s end, having tasted freedom, Cathy refuses to return to servitude and makes the monumental decision to disguise herself as a man and join the Army’s legendary Buffalo Soldiers.

Alone now in the ultimate man’s world, Cathy must fight not only for her survival and freedom, but she vows to never give up on finding her mother, her little sister, and the love of the only man strong and noble enough to win her heart. Inspired by the stunning, true story of Private Williams, this American heroine comes to vivid life in a sweeping and magnificent tale about one woman’s fight for freedom, respect and independence. (Amazon)

S.A.M.A.S.A.N.
Saturday, May 21st Church Dining Room
5:30 pm arrival / 6:00 pm dinner

PROGRAM: Fashion Show

(It’s not what you expect)

Your presence is requested at the event of the year! A pre-summer picnic dinner complete with BBQ chicken will be served so sit back and enjoy! “Ticket Price” is \$12.00 per person payable in advance to: Mary Coogan 102 Land Rush Way, Baldwinsville, NY 13027 315.350.3707



Children and youth who are attending Casowasco or other Methodist camps can apply for Camperships. Scholarship aid will be determined by the number of applicants and the available funds. Applications are available in the church office and should be returned by Friday, June 3 and camperships will be awarded on Sunday, June 19.

I, _____, wish to donate \$_____ to help sponsor a child going to a United Methodist summer camp. If you have a particular child you wish to sponsor, please include his/her name below:

NOTES FROM NANCY
April 2022

Spring is finally here (even though we did have snow on Easter), and I have come full circle in my first liturgical cycle here at Baldwinsville First – Christmas through Easter. It has been a wonderful experience!

I'd like to thank Pastors Bill & Jeff, Marianne and Nairobi, the Bell Choir and of course the Chancel Choir. All of you have been such a joy to work and worship with. I look forward to many more years of meaningful worship and joyous music with you.

I have had some questions as to why the choir is still wearing masks. Well, the answer is simple. We are NOT out of the woods. We have gotten ourselves to a very false place of comfort. The upsurge in positive case in Upstate NY is higher than anywhere else in the state. I think what folks are not taking into account is that singing is a very high-risk activity due to the force of projection when you sing. Particulate can carry as far as 20 feet. Even if you are vaccinated and/or boosted you can still contract the virus, and with the newer strains so active we in the choir are being as cautious as we can to protect everyone in the congregation from any spread. We would greatly appreciate it if folks in the congregation would still continue to mask to protect all those that have compromised immune systems, at least until this latest upswing has subsided.

Blessings,
Nancy B. James, Director of Music



IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO BE THINKING ABOUT VBS 2022!!!
JUNE 27 - JULY 1
For Children entering Grades K-5

Youth entering grades 6 and above can join us as counselors, guides, and helpers! **Adult helpers** are needed for each station: crafts, science, music, recreation, and snacks. Storyteller Jeff Hodge is also looking for **actors** to give life to each day's Bible Story!

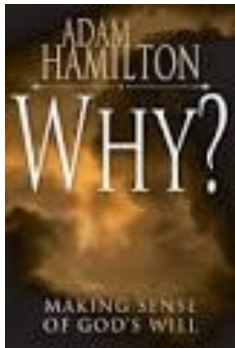
We will also be looking for items to use: **frosting containers with lids** (or similar items) for children to use to create Blessing jars. Look for more requests as we get closer to summer! It will be a fun filled week, concluding with a picnic on Friday, featuring **Skippy's Ice Cream truck!** Janet Brooks, 315-415-6416; jbrooks48@aol.com



05/02 Michael Carwell
Ian Nordmark
05/03 Matthew Cole
05/04 Edward Cranston
05/05 George Ramseyer
Judy Sugar-Giordano
05/06 Don Hewitt
05/08 Peyton Anderson
Katelyn Lindsey

05/09 Jerry Barker
Danielle Marsell
05/11 Susan DiRenzo
05/12 Keenan Smith
05/14 Jeane Custin
Brett DeLola
Maya Hewitt
05/15 Dale Waldron
05/16 Connie Crandon
Donna Foster
Jordan Hoffman
05/18 Tyler Morgan
05/19 Shirley McMahan
05/20 Beverly Frank
Kenneth Jackson
Daniel Miller

05/21 Tish Evans
Eileen Rice
05/22 Doug Foster
05/23 Emily Eastman
05/24 Janet McIntosh
05/25 Dennis Plucinik II
05/26 Josephine Turner
05/27 Drucilla Nordmark
05/28 Michael Thompson
05/29 Dennis Plucinik
05/30 Marsha Plucinik
05/31 Ryan DeLola
Douglas Metrick
Fred Ramseyer



Why?

A new class, “Why? Making Sense of God’s Will” will begin **Wednesday June 8** for 4 weeks from 1 until 2:30. This is a book and video study by Adam Hamilton intended to help make sense of some of the questions we often ask in the face of suffering and to consider ways in which God is at work in the world. The four classes are deal with: pain and suffering, unanswered prayer, God’s will, and trusting God. The class will be led by Jan Beall 635-1356. Books may be obtained online and need to be ordered at least 2 weeks before the class begins. Please sign up in the church office by June 1. Let Jan know if you need her to order your book.

Thanks and Praise

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the cards, messages, and calls following the passing of Melba’s mother, Jean Brown. We truly appreciate the prayers and kind words. We are blessed to be part of such a caring and supportive church. With love, The Lindsey Family