

The Visitor


September
2021

Pastor

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Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gordon Knapp 315-303-4862

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Nairobi O. Smith

Music Director

Nancy B. James 315-256-7509

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Custodian

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Normal Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Website: www.bvillefirstumc.org

PLEASE NOTE:

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

[Church Calendar](#)



"A Sheepdogs Tale"

¹¹ Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the Lord, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.¹² And the Lord appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, "I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice. ¹³ If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; ¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:11-14

In the text from 2 Chronicles, we find God's response to King Solomon and his prayer for the nation of Israel as they dedicate the first Temple. Until this dedication, the people of Israel worshipped God in a Tabernacle – a tent that had traveled with them as they left captivity in Egypt, wandered through the desert for 40 years, fought and conquered the Promised Land. Solomon's father, King David had desired to build the Temple, but God refused that request and the task and opportunity fell to Solomon.

The dedication and celebration of the new Temple must have been spectacular! In 2 Chronicles 5 we are told that as the Arc of the Covenant and all of the vessels and tools for worship were brought up into the new Temple, a cloud engulfed the Temple, and no one could stand in the glory of the Lord! In this presence, Solomon calls upon God and asks that God will be gracious and patient with the people of faith. Read again God's powerful response and promise – **"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."**

It is my privilege to call our church family at the Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church into a 70-day season of prayer and repentance as we launch into this fall season. This 70-day period of prayer and repentance will begin Sunday September 12th, and it will run through Sunday November 21st. On November 21st we will receive new members, through Confirmation and Profession of Faith, and we will celebrate our 200-year anniversary as a congregation! Will you join us as we come together during this season of prayer?

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. We have moved our Contemporary Worship to 6:00 P.M. Friday night. It will be a causal dinner service – I will bring a pizza and some drinks – come and give this a try! Both services will be available online 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

September 2021

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance, (Eccl 3: 1,4)



We have entered a new season – a time of return and renewal. After 18 months absence, many Sunday School and Family activities that were postponed or cancelled, are returning. Please join us in prayer and in person as we resume Sunday School and other activities that help us connect with our faith and with one another – *Pastor Jeff*

Sunday, September 12 **during & after 9:00 a.m. worship**

Bring your backpacks for a special blessing during our Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m. Immediately following church, we will have “Sunday Sundaes” to kick off our Sunday School Season. Registration for classes pre-k thru 6th grade will be available.



Sunday Morning Sunday School: Classes for Pre-K/ Kindergarten, 1-2-3-, 4-5-6

Join us for Sunday School beginning September 19 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. Register on the 12th, classes begin on the 19th. Masks will be required in the upstairs Sunday School wing for all persons, regardless of vaccination status. If you can help with Sunday School classes or activity time during worship, please contact Jeff at Jhodge312@yahoo.com or Secretary@bvillefirstumc.org.



Wonderful Wednesdays

A weekly Family Night with a light meal & activities from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Begins September 22

Join us for a time of food, fun, and fellowship every Wednesday beginning on **Wednesday, September 22 with a family Minute-to-Win-it**. This is a mid-week opportunity for intergenerational fellowship and friendship. Each week will look a little different as we shape this new time together. We will have a schedule of our **Wonderful Wednesdays** planned for the fall at our first get-together on the 22nd. If you have any questions, or want to be part of the planning team, please see Pastor Jeff or e-mail him at Jhodge312@yahoo.com



Of Continued Concern:

Gene Evans, Helen Falge,
Sally Graham, Jim Larondra,
Justin Taylor

Friends & Neighbors:

Adam, friend of Lynda & Brad Benton
Lisa Ballard & mother, friends of Rev. Hodge

Jim Bartholomew,

uncle of Barb Stowe & Sue Vanderveer

Jim Burke, friend of Harlow Kesselstein
Barbara Church, Harlow Kesselstein's sister
Janis Darby, friend of Cheryl Metrick
Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother
Marjorie Heck, Shari Mudge's mother
William Hobart, friend of the Kesselsteins
Jim Kelley, stepfather of Pastor Jeff

Claudia King, Jeanne Pray's sister-in-law

Richard Marks, friend of Joan Foster

Sean & Heather McLeod,

friends of Lisa Kesselstein

Blakely Nowicki, Kesselstein family

Melissa Sullivan Ricotta,

Bonnie & Millard Sullivan's daughter

Norene Saccone, friend of Bonnie Kesselstein

Ginny Stady, friend of Bonnie Kesselstein

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:

Jay Scarson-Barrett &
Craig Barrett and family on
the passing of Jay's mother, Anna Marie Scarson

Barb Stowe, Sue Vanderveer, and their families on
the passing of their brother, Tom Disinger

Cheryl Metrick & family on the passing of
her brother, Nelson Eddy

Marianne Miles & family on the passing of
her mother, Fern LaPrade

Family & friends of Rev. Gregg DeSalvatore

Marsha & Dennis Plucinik and family on the
passing of her mother, Martha Bowen

Connie Crandon & family on the passing of
her husband, Harold Crandon

Cicily McCarthy, family & friends on the passing of
her husband, Chuck McCarthy

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 #302

Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936

Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513

Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #517

Oscar Jensen – Elderwood (PT)

Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #455

Walter Maihofer – Elderwood # 111D (PT)

Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107

Jim Tudman – McHarrie Pointe #204

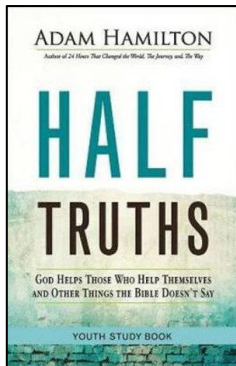
Patricia Tudman – McHarrie Pointe #204



CHURCH ON THE ISLAND . . .

Our 12-week summer season at Church on the Island will conclude on **Sunday, September 5.**

Rev. Jeff Hodge will be the guest preacher. We have had a wonderful summer of meaningful worship. Worship begins at 8:00 a.m. We will have a special Coffee fellowship time at the end of worship on September 5.



A 5-week Fall Study: "Half Truths"

September 15 – October 13

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays

This study on Wednesday mornings is using the book "Half Truths" by Adam Hamilton and will be supported with a video. Hamilton is a well-known Methodist minister from Kansas City who speaks across the country explaining questions of faith. This study takes common Christian phrases that capture some elements of truth yet miss the point in important ways. They include such statements as "Everything Happens for a Reason", "God Helps Those Who Help Themselves", "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle" and other phrases that the Bible doesn't say. Contact Jan Beall (315-635-1356) to sign up for the class. Let her know as soon as possible if you wish her to order you a used book for \$7.00. This is a book you will enjoy having and you can order your own book on-line if you wish.

Eureka! Book Club

Join us each month at 6:00 p.m.

We are bringing our own dinner and sharing in conversation and fellowship.

Our book discussion begins at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 28 – "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee

Tuesday, October 26 – "Memories of Glass" by Melanie Dobson

Tuesday, November – Date TBA –

"Taste and See: *Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers & Fresh Food Makers*"
by Margaret Feinberg

Tuesday, December – Date TBA –

"Advent in Plain Sight – A Devotion through 10 Objects" by Jill Duffield

UNYC DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP

Rev. Susan M. Ranous, Deacon of Stewardship

DEACON ARTICLE ABOUT HESITANCY

As you're reading this article, consider that it has been over 533 days since the world changed, a pandemic raged and, for a time, everything seemed to shut down. There have been over 36,832,900 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with over 629,612 deaths in the United States, 2,166,366 cases in New York State alone (of which I was one!), and 53,539 deaths of New Yorkers, one of which was a coworker. Keep in mind that not everyone that had COVID was tested; so the numbers are probably actually higher!

Many of us were extremely careful and were doing all the right things and still got sick; some died. Even after "recovering", some still suffer with lost of smell, lost of taste, hair loss, scarred lungs, difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, shaking, brain fog, joint pain...and that's just people I know.

Then there was good news: formation and production of vaccines to combat this horrible disease. At the time of writing this article, about 60% of the population in the United States has received at least one dose of one of the vaccines. I remember getting multiple vaccines when I was a kid, getting at least eight or more vaccines before I left for a mission trip to Haiti, getting a tetanus shot after being injured in a car accident, and getting an annual flu shot.

While some people became sick after the shot, I was sure that everyone, if physically and safely able, would jump at the chance to get the vaccine against COVID-19. But there's something called vaccine hesitancy. Have you heard about that? Synonyms for hesitancy include:

uncertainty · hesitation · hesitance · doubt · dubiousness · indecision · indecisiveness · equivocation · vacillation · wavering · scepticism · nervousness · second thoughts · dithering · stalling · shilly-shallying · pausing · delay · hanging back · waiting · havoring · dilly-dallying · reluctance · unwillingness · unease · misgivings · qualms · scruples · reservations

I get not liking to get shots, but this vaccine hesitancy seems like a lot more than dithering and shilly-shallying, isn't it? For some, they are researching it but are open-minded. There are those that struggle with concerns about government, racism (see my summer article in The Visitor), and others. There are those that are not at all open-minded, and incorrect stories start getting shared about what happens when someone gets the shot. There are allergies and sickness and even death from the shot itself, but the percentage of that compared with the percentage of people who get sick from COVID is quite a bit smaller.

As people living in America, we are fortunate. Overall, many of us have enough food, clean water, homes, good health care and vaccines. Vaccines that have helped either irradicate some diseases or control many have been developed for a number of years. A simple search tells about the polio vaccine ("the vaccine everyone was waiting for") being available in the 1950s, followed by vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis, influenza, right up to COVID-19 now. During this time, vaccines for smallpox were actually stopped because the disease had actually been irradicated.

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Fall Rummage Sale



Please note on your calendars our Fall Rummage Sale dates:

Take-in days are September 29 & 30

Sale days are October 1 & 2

Hope your summer will be enjoyable and if you clean out a closet on a rainy day, please think of donating to our Church Fall Rummage Sale! Thank you, co-chairs Dave Horan and Mickie Lorenz

+++++

Thanks and Praise

Wow! I would like you all to know how delighted, happy, and pleased to have received so many greetings on my 90th birthday. How proud I am for being part of such a thoughtful and caring congregation. Each and every card warmed my heart and made me realize even more how very much my church family is so special. May God continue to bless each and everyone now and forever. With love, hugs, and thanks, Joanne Sage

Greetings from Tennessee,

I am sad that I was unable to get to church to say goodbye before I made my move to Tennessee. But I have some blessings I need to share.

God Bless all of you that were so willing to help when I asked for volunteers to work with children in Sunday school, in Advent Intergenerational Activities, Vacation Bible School and Summer Sunday school. (Also, God Bless those of you who ran and hid when you saw me coming! I understood that you were busy with your work and your families).

God Bless the choirs (Adult and Bells) for contributing to my Faith Journey through your music. If only the walls of the sanctuary could send out some of the beautiful sounds it has absorbed over the years!

God Bless all of you who sent me cards and called the many times I had surgery and was confined to a nursing home. It meant so much.

Also, God Bless those of you who were willing to drive me to all my doctor appointments. It was sincerely appreciated.

God Bless the pastors who have guided me on my Faith Journey and raised my awareness of what it means to be a Christian.

God Bless Reverend Knapp for his many calls and visits through the trials in my life, and Becky Jensen for being there for me when I needed her.

God Bless all of you who are reading this. Share your faith today. Hug someone! Smile at someone who needs cheering up! These actions are all continuing the work of the Lord.

Much Love, Janet McIntosh (807 South Broadway St., Portland, TN 37148; 615-600-2656)

“NOTES FROM NANCY”
August 2021

Summer Greetings my new church family!! As the summer begins to wind down and the fall plans begin to rev up there is so much to be grateful for. I, for one, am so very grateful to be your new Director of Music. Even with the slightly slower pace of summer I have been met and welcomed by so many here at BFUMC. I already feel at home. Like most of you, I have felt such a longing for some sense of normalcy from this pandemic, especially with the restrictions that it placed on music and singing. Music fills our souls and the absence of it depletes us. We need the nurturing element of music in our lives now more than ever.

This is actually my second attempt at writing this article. I started it weeks ago with certain plans and intentions in mind. But as things change and progress almost on a daily basis I have begun to rethink those plans. Obviously this pandemic is nowhere near ending so we must continue to be vigilant in our methods and protocols to protect one another. With that said, at least this go around we have the advantage of being vaccinated. Singing is still considered a high-risk activity and I have researched and educated myself with the latest information from the CDC, American Choral Society, National Association of Teachers of Singing and more. I promise you that every possible precaution will be taken to protect the lives and health of everyone involved, and these precautions will also be amended as the situation changes.

As things stand now, and of course not knowing what could change between now and September, I plan to go forward with choir returning etc. With that said, if suggested guidelines and protocols advise against it, then we will postpone the choir’s return until it is safe for all. Until we know otherwise here is what we have planned:

- *Thursday, Sept. 9th – Rehearsal from 7-8 (rehearsals have returned to Thursdays)
The first 30 minutes downstairs and the second 30 minutes in the sanctuary.
- *Saturday, Sept. 11th – Choir Workshop 11am-12pm, Potluck Lunch 12-1pm
- *Sunday, Sept. 12th – Rehearsal 8:15am, Service 9:00am

*****To participate in choir you MUST be vaccinated, N95 masks with nasal clips and socially distanced 3-4 ft.*****

You will all be updated as soon as any different information and guidelines are learned. With the increase in transmission of the Delta variant things could change rather rapidly. We will do all we can to protect the health and lives of our congregation.

Before closing, I ask that you be patient with me as I learn your names and faces (which will be harder as we are masked again!). Please keep coming up and introducing yourselves to me. It takes me a while to learn and remember. So far, it’s been such an honor and a blessing to be here with you all.

In Christ’s Love,
Nancy B. James, Director of Music



More Thanks and Praise!!

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to Richard & Helen Stafford (August 12)

Thanks to all my friends and family at Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church for the beautiful flowers you sent for my mother’s funeral. As I mentioned before, they were the only flowers allowed in the church and at the cemetery, besides the casket spray. They did yeoman duty travelling around to the services and returning home with me.

Thanks so very much! Marianne

To our Baldwinsville UMC family,
We sincerely appreciate all of the cards and kind words after the passing of our brother, Tom. Thank you also to Rev. Mudge, Rev. Hodge, and others who attended our Mom’s memorial service. It is a blessing to be a part of such a truly caring congregation.

Barb Stowe, Sue Vanderveer and families



A huge ~~thank~~ you to everyone who helped this week to make our outdoor, socially distant, Covid protecting VBS a huge success:

Our youth: Ella Smith, Taylor Hoffman, Allison Hoffman, Jayden Kantak, Lyra Sweeney, Grace Myers, Ella Georger, Nathan Georger, and Katelynn Brooks.

Our adult leaders: Ron Waterbury, Patty Maxwell, Stephanie Smith. Lissa Smith, Katelyn Lindsey, Melba Lindsey, Nancy Brotherton, Shari Mudge, and Nairobi Smith.

Our setup and take down crew: Dave Greer, Dave Horan, Alan Lindsey, Wayne Gilbert, and Steve Ranous; and Sally Dayger, the UMM and Cheryl Metrick for their support.

Thank you to Pastor Mudge for his guidance and daily reflection time that gave spiritual meaning to each day’s lesson. Thanks to Pastor Jeff, my “partner in crime” for all things Christian Ed., for his humor, creativity, and focus. And especially to Chuck Brooks, without whom none of this could have happened; he has taken on more roles than I can list! *Janet Brooks*, VBS Director 2021

We collected 107 items for our



**FOOD
PANTRY**



65 pairs of socks





09/01 Peter Morgan
Michael Joncas
09/02 Fran Crippen
Marlene Fredette
Jesse Johnson
09/04 Brad Benton
Evelyn Reynolds
Jenna Hunsberger
09/06 Tim Evans

09/10 Sharon Cook
09/11 Paul Dreher-Wiberg
Chuck Anderson
09/12 Jennifer Sterbak
09/13 Gertrude Collins
Jenoyce Wooldridge
Jonathon Price
Rachel Hewitt
09/17 Scott Baldwin
Joan Simmonds
Kevin Zacchia
09/18 Craig Barrett
Erik Bjorn
Allison Hoffman

09/20 Rev. Gordon Knapp
Gary Pacheck
09/21 Zachary Fleury
09/22 Alexandra Switzer
09/23 Valerie Dreher-Caldwell
Judi Dreher-Wiberg
Wayne Gilbert
Amanda Gilbert
Katharine (Ramseyer) Burke
09/24 Lisa Phelps
09/25 Melinda Kenney
09/27 Jonah Kantak
09/28 Collin Oppleton
Rob Scott
Janet Joslyn
09/30 Linda Horan

(continued from page 5)

This ability to get these vaccines and the successful control of many diseases should encourage us, as Christians, to celebrate these gifts. There are things we can do to encourage vaccination, which include: engaging with folks, by listening first, using the church building, countering disinformation, getting the Vaccine, letting black history inform, cultivating self-awareness, explaining how the vaccine works, having conversations and offering rides for folks to get the vaccine. (vaccineturnout.com)

While more people getting the vaccine is important to controlling this virus, there are also other steps that we can take, as Christians, and as good neighbors:

- Wear our masks (we can still communicate diseases)
- Help others, while being careful to honor personal space and safety

“Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31 - NIV).

There is nothing we can do that is more important, after loving God, and following Jesus, then to love our neighbor. So how can we do that?