

The Visitor



September

2023 

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

Music Director

Dan Williams 315-406-0232

Secretary

Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

Bookkeeper

Rod Porter 315-247-7426

Treasurer

George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

IN THIS ISSUE

Blessing Backpacks//Sundae Sunday Page 2

First Fest//Drive-in Movie Night Page 4

Children's Ministries Page 5

Rummage Sale//BBQ Fundraiser Page 6

SAMASAN/Men's Bible Study/8-4-F Page 7

Eureka! Book Club Page 9

Church Office: 315-635-6442

Fax: 315-635-6963

Normal Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

E-mail: secretary@bvillefirstumc.org

Website: www.bvillefirstumc.org

PLEASE NOTE:

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

[Church Calendar](#)



From the Pastor's Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

“¹⁴As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:14-17 NRSV

I have always had a mixed relationship with September. On the one hand was the shortening of daylight, the return to school and the perceived loss of summer freedom. On the other hand, was the invitation to a fresh start – a new beginning with fresh notebooks and books and pencils and crayons. That's right, crayons.

I remember graduating from the 8 pack of Crayola's to the 16 – up to the 24! I remember in 5th grade being seated beside a very pretty girl and being intimidated when she pulled a 64 pack of Crayola's out of her bookbag! Seemed a bit too much then and I suppose even now.

As we prepare ourselves and our church family for the fall, I have an exciting invitation for you. I want to invite you to join me on a journey through the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. This journey will take us 34 weeks, so we need to start soon if we hope to finish before next summer! DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of each participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

The first study in the program is DISCIPLE: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY, a thirty-four-week overview of the entire Bible.

I will talk more about the structure and workload for this exciting study in worship over the next few weeks – please pray for this adventure and consider coming along. If there is sufficient interest, sessions will be offered at least one weekday, one evening and perhaps a weekend and on-line option. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn about the greatest book, the greatest love letter ever written! Come and join us for worship at 9am Sunday morning for our Heritage worship service featuring special music and familiar hymns. It has been exciting to have our church family returning and worshipping together. If you can't make it to church on Sunday morning, you can find us live on Facebook at around 9:20am each Sunday – you can go back and watch or rewatch these services anytime! We'll save you a seat!

Serving Christ with You,
Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge

September 2023

Church on the Island closes its 8th Season on Sunday, September 3

There are two more weeks of worship on Papermill Island as **Church on the Island** winds down its 8th season of outdoor worship. This week, August 27, Rev. Jeff Hodge is our preacher, and on Sunday, September 3, we welcome Rev. Patti Walz to Church on the Island. The September 3rd service will also include music by Piper Jack and a special coffee time provided by the Church on the Island team. We have had a wonderful, inspirational season with eight different preachers, including two who were new to our pulpit. There will be a complete report in October.



Bring your backpacks and your appetites on September 10

Bring your backpacks for a special blessing for a special "back to school" blessing and receive our "Back to School" blessing kit during our Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 10. Immediately following church, we will have "Sunday Sundaes" – a delicious way to kick off the start of the fall School and Church year!



Of Continued Concern:

Robert Eastman (St. Joe's #3136),
Sally Graham, Dave Horan, Elijah Huling,
Pat Kline, Jim Larmondra, Tim Link,
Janet McIntosh, Cheryl Metrick, Susan Ranous,
Richard Stafford, Robert Yeddo

Friends & Neighbors:

Francis Bliven, Julia Bliven's husband
Larry Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen
Carolyn Dixon
Emily Gibbs
Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother
William Hobart, friend of the Kisselsteins
Craig Hodge, Pastor Jeff's brother
John Hughes, Joyce Wilkinson's brother
Dana Kaiser, Donna Foster's son
Roberta Maxwell,
sister-in-law of Patty & Rocky
Robert Metrick, Cheryl Metrick's nephew
Blakely Nowicki, Kisselstein family
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,
Casey DeLapp, James Scott Gibbs,
Casey Hargrave, Jeffrey Lucy,
Dr. Kristen Lucy, Jeffrey Meany,
Brandon Merle, Benjamin Nordmark,
Tyler Reynolds, Peter Slye, Richard Slye



Sympathy to:

Family & friends of Rev. Robert David Oertel
Family & friends of Becky Keating
Lynda Benton & family on the passing of
her husband, Bradley (Brad) Benton

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster, Mildred Long

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Cunningham #504
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #332B
Dorothy Clary – Commons-Loretto, Auburn
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Judy Herbs – Brookdale #43
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401
Jim Tudman – Syracuse Home #204

FIRST FĚ&T

Sunday, September 17

After Worship in the Multi-Purpose Room

Join us for First Fest – the first look at so many of the ministries at B'ville First. For groups, it is easy to participate! You get half a table for a display. Include ways for people to get involved, sign-up sheets, take-aways. Also, each group is asked to have a snack at their table so that visitors to each table can enjoy a snack as they visit your table and learn more about your ministry! This event is hosted by Congregational Care & Family Ministries. For more information, please see or contact Pastor Jeff at Jhodge312@yahoo.com.

Join us for our First Ever Family Drive-in Movie Night

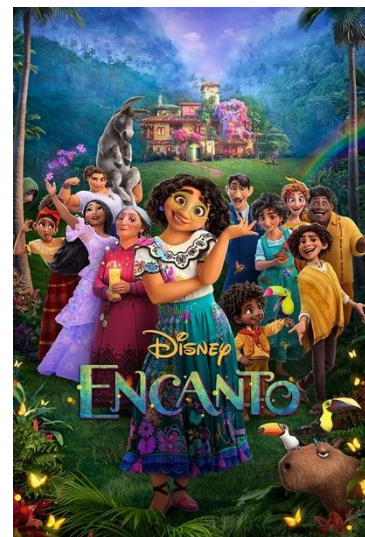
Hosted by Baldwinsville Nursery School & Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Saturday, September 16

7:00 p.m.; Main Feature begins at 7:30 p.m.

BFUMC Parking Lot

Join us for an enchanting animated musical film that will touch the hearts of all ages! Bring your chairs and blankets. We will provide the popcorn!



Children's Ministries

We are always looking at new ways to provide Christian education, fellowship and nurture for our children and families. We welcome your input and engagement – from questions to committee work, to classroom involvement. I have been praying for three years for a strong, creative, caring individual to come forward and help steer an education program that has been without lay leadership since 2020. I ask you to join me in prayer as we enter the new school year. For more information, see Pastor Jeff (or e-mail Jhodge312@yahoo.com) or seek me out at First Fest on Sunday, September 17.

Here are some dates to put on your calendar and events you should not miss! --

Sunday, September 10 -- Backpack Blessing in worship at 9:00 a.m. followed by **Sundae Sunday** at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 17 – Take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about our Christian Education and Fellowship opportunities for children and families at **First Fest**.

Sunday, September 24 -- we will **Celebrate Wonder** – our interactive Sunday School program for children ages 4 and up. We will include more details in the church bulletin about start times. If you are interested in being part of this program, please see or e-mail Pastor Jeff at Jhodge312@yahoo.com or Janet Brooks at Jbrooks48@aol.com

Also, check out these Sunday morning offerings for families!

Nursery Care is available in the Nursery Care Room on the first floor of the Education Wing.. Come meet Mrs. Theresa Piedmont, our nursery caregiver. For more information about the nursery and ways to help, please contact Marsha Plucinik at Marshaplucinik@gmail.com. We will also have a booth at First Fest on Sunday, September 17.

Sunday's Cool, our activity time, which begins following the Children's Time at the 9:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, September 10 will be held in the Children's Library on the second floor of the education wing. We need two people each week to help with this ministry. See Emma Webster(e.plucinik@gmail.com) or Pastor Jeff (Jhodge312@yahoo.com) if you can help. We will also have a booth at First Fest on September 17!

Acolytes for 2023-2024 – We will be starting a Youth Acolyte Program this fall. For more information, meet us at our booth at First Fest on Sunday, September 17.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Associate pastor of Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Chicken BBQ Fundraiser



The church thanks all the volunteers who helped at our last BBQ chicken plate fundraiser. It was a fun and joyful day! Our next BBQ chicken sale is scheduled for **Saturday, September 16** (sale begins at 11:00 a.m.) We are again asking for volunteers to assist in this sale. This solicitation is for the entire congregation who would like to help.

If you are able to assist, please notify the church office (315-635-6442; secretary@bvillefirstumc.org) or Alan Lindsey (315-857-4609; awlsr@hotmail.com). Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

RUMMAGE



Donation days: October 4 & 5, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sale days: October 6, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Bake Sale (*Friday only*) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

and

October 7, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (\$4 Bag Day)

Volunteers Needed! –

In order for our Fall Rummage Sale to be successful, we need YOU to help. Do you have a friend or neighbor who would work beside you? We're an EO "employer" for fun and fellowship. Please call Mickie Lorenz (315-635-5182) or Dave Horan (315-415-0229). Thank you and God Bless

Donations wanted –

Clothing of all sizes, linens, bedding, kitchen items, puzzles, books, games, toys, tools, sporting equipment, leftovers from your garage sale, etc.

Sorry -

We cannot accept suitcases, bowling balls, VHS tapes, and large furniture.

S.A.M.A.S.A.N.

Anyone interested in joining SAMASAN (Some are Married and Some are Not), please call Eileen Rice at 315-635-9644 or email at Raylee73@aol.com.

There are no dues and it's free to join, with minimal obligations, those being showing up for a good time!

We have a great group as of right now, but we need some new, younger people to keep this fun group going.

We usually do something fun and interesting 6 times a year but would like to see some new faces. We think you will enjoy it.

Thank you,

Eileen Rice, Pres., Melba Lindsey, VP, and Mickie Lorenz, Treas.

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Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study Group

Beginning Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 PM., the "Acts of the Apostles" will be discussed. We shall follow the journeys and activities of the Apostles, primarily focusing on the missionary efforts of Peter and Paul. We will learn the details of the early spread of Christianity, the conversion of Gentiles, and the challenges faced by the early Christian community, providing insights into the growth and establishment of the Church in the years following the crucifixion of Jesus. The purpose of this study is to know God better. From this we will glean insights into how we too can be a more effective part in spreading the Word of God to others in Baldwinsville and beyond. Additional information: David Horan (315-638-2407), George Ramseyer (315-720-6184).

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8-4-F (Eight for Fellowship)

Join us for the 8-4-F dinner club! Our first get-together will be a potluck dinner on September 23rd, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring your own table service and a covered dish to share with everyone. We will provide drinks.

We'll be getting to know each other and providing information about how the 8-4-F club works. Please RSVP to Eileen Rice (Raylee73@aol.com) or Melba Lindsey (lynb81@hotmail.com) by September 20th so we can plan accordingly.

All are welcome to join 8-4-F! This is a great opportunity to connect with others in the church community and enjoy a delicious meal together.

Financial Update through July

As I am reviewing our current financial position, I am thinking about a recent report on television that on average, the cost to get children ready for school is almost \$1,000. WOW, how do parents do it? But then I thought about how our church and the cost to maintain the church, both the building and the staff wages associated with it and had the same thought. Fortunately, we have been able to mostly cover the operating costs through July, but with significant help from the Trustees and Nursery School.

Through July, pledges and recorded giving total \$158.4 thousand, basically the same as last year. Loose and special offerings also match last year while we are receiving a little higher amount on income from the Lockwood Fund. Total income through July is \$185.6 thousand. The 2023 budget forecast an approximate 10% increase in pledges and recording giving with more of the congregation returning. The lack of a bigger increase causes concern for the upcoming months.

Costs, consisting mostly of salaries and related benefits total \$180.3 thousand. This would make it appear that the church has a surplus of \$5,200. But that is not the whole story. Apportionments paid to the Methodist Conference are lagging, with the church owing about \$15,000. Church repairs/maintenance costs are being paid by the Trustee's. In 2022 they were \$5,400 through July and are significantly higher in 2023. It is questionable if the Trustee's will be able to fund these costs in future years. Wages and benefits for the Housekeeper were assumed by the Nursery School, reducing the church costs by \$3,600 through July.

August and the first three weeks of September have historically been the low points for pledges and offerings. Hopefully, this trend will not continue this year. I am sure that none of us want the church to have to face the prospect of drastic expense reductions, including staff. There is an easy way for you to help. When not at church, you can send your pledge through your bank's bill pay system or by using the church's on-line giving system. It is easy, secure and you control how much you give, frequency of giving and even the method to give.

Go to the church website <https://www.bvillefirstumc.org> and click on the on-line giving located on the right side of the page. From there, you can establish an account, decide how much to give, frequency of payment and when to begin.

For more information, contact Rod Porter, Bookkeeper (315) 247-7426 or Rocky Maxwell, Chair, Finance Committee (315) 488-5700

Thank you for your continuing support of our church.

Rocky Maxwell



Knitting Group



The Knitting Group will start meeting at Mercer Park, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. through the summer. No matter what your crafting talent, you are welcome to join us. If it rains, we will still be meeting at the church in the chapel. For information, call Linda Miller (315-440-6049). We will return to meeting at the church on September 11, 9 – 11:00 a.m.

Church Bell Choir

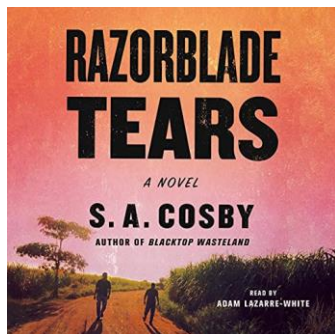
The Covenant Chimers will resume practice on September 5. Anyone interested in learning to ring, we are in need of more ringers. Our practice time is 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. Call Linda Miller at 315-440-6049 with any questions.



Eureka! BOOK CLUB

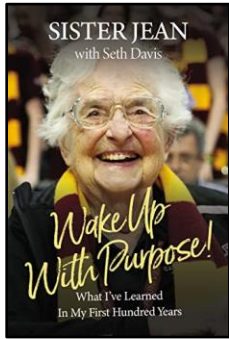
Eureka Book Club meets monthly and is open to the entire congregation. Come meet some of our leaders at our booth at **First Fest!**

September 26, 2023 --Razorblade Tears: A Novel by S.A. Cosby



Ike Randolph has been out of jail for fifteen years, with not so much as a speeding ticket in all that time. But a Black man with cops at the door knows to be afraid. The last thing he expects to hear is that his son Isiah has been murdered, along with Isiah's white husband, Derek. Ike had never fully accepted his son but is devastated by his loss. Derek's father Buddy Lee was almost as ashamed of Derek for being gay as Derek was ashamed his father was a criminal. Buddy Lee still has contacts in the underworld, though, and he wants to know who killed his boy. Ike and Buddy Lee, two ex-cons with little else in common other than a criminal past and a love for their dead sons, band together in their desperate desire for revenge. In their quest to do better for their sons in death than they did in life, hardened men Ike and Buddy Lee will confront their own prejudices about their sons and each other, as they rain down vengeance upon those who hurt their boys.

(more Eureka! on page 10)



October 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.– Wake up with Purpose: What I've Learned my first 100 years" by Sister Jean. I do not have a book leader yet, but I am confident someone will come forward. Here is the synopsis from Amazon.com:

Known to millions as simply "Sister Jean," the Loyola Chicago matriarch and college basketball icon invites you into her remarkable memoir filled with history, wonder, and common-sense wisdom for this century and beyond. As Sister Jean wisely says, "I've seen so many changes in the last 102 years, but the important things remain the same."

Part life story, part philosophy text, and part spiritual guide, Sister Jean's wit, wisdom, and common sense has broad appeal and application that transcends religious creed, belief, and even feelings on Loyola's basketball team.

Along with her collaborator Seth Davis, an award-winning writer, broadcaster and *New York Times* best-selling author, *Wake Up with Purpose!* lets you experience:

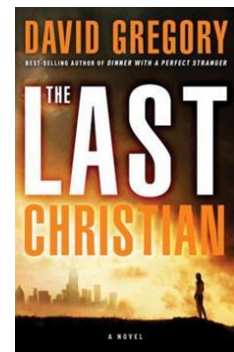
- Sister Jean's words and her spirit.
- her sharp sense of humor.
- life lessons gleaned from one hundred years of living.
- universal themes that connect us all.
- priceless wisdom.

The driving force inside *Wake Up with Purpose!* is the narrative of Sister Jean's fascinating life--from teaching at a Catholic school during the Second World War to serving on a Chicago college campus in the sixties and beyond to cheering from the sidelines of a men's basketball tournament in March 2018.

As you learn about Sister Jean's century-long life, you'll feel just like the Loyola students do when they knock on her office door and plop down in her office.

November 14, 2023 -- *The Last Christian* by David Gregory --

In the future, it's possible to live forever--but at what cost? A.D. 2088. Christian missionary Abigail Caldwell emerges from the jungle for the first time in her thirty-four years, the sole survivor of a mysterious disease that killed her village. A curious message from her grandfather leads Abby to America, only to discover a nation where Christianity has completely died out. But a larger threat looms. The world's leading artificial intelligence industrialist has perfected a technique for downloading the human brain into a silicon form. Brain transplants have begun, and with them comes the potential of eliminating physical death altogether. As Abby navigates a society grown more addicted to stimulating the body than nurturing the soul, she and Creighton Daniels, a historian troubled by his father's unexpected death, become unwitting targets of powerful men who will stop at nothing to further their nefarious goals. Hanging in the balance--the spiritual future of all humanity. In this fast-paced thriller, startling near-future science collides with thought-provoking religious themes to create a spell-binding what-if novel.





09/01 Michael Joncas
Peter Morgan
09/02 Owen Hudson
Jesse Johnson
Fran Crippen
Marlene Fredette
09/03 Susan Bednar
09/04 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 Jenoyce Wooldridge
Rachel Hewitt
Gertrude Collins
Jonathon Price
09/17 Kevin Zacchia
Scott Baldwin
Joan Simmonds
09/18 Craig Barrett
Allison Hoffman

09/20 Rev. Gordon Knapp
Gary Pacheck
09/23 Wayne Gilbert
Amanda Gilbert
Katharine Burke
Valerie Dreher-Caldwell
Judi Dreher-Wiberg
09/24 Lisa Phelps
09/25 Melinda Kenney
09/27 Jonah Kantak
09/28 Collin Opleton
Rob Scott
Janet Joslyn
09/30 Linda Horan

Recent Baptisms:

Holly Elizabeth Breckheimer, daughter of Jayson Breckheimer & Victoria Dusart
Leah Elaine Yablonski, daughter of Tristan & Allene Yablonski
Korra Serafina McCaleb, daughter of Zachary & Megan McCaleb
Elizabeth Ann Marie Hildreth, daughter of Todd Hildreth & Jennifer Colbert
Alexander Mason Johnson, son of Laura Johnson
Benjamin Zachary Johnson, son of Laura Johnson

Thanks and Praise

Dear Church Family,
Just a note to thank you for your prayers, phone calls, cards, and letters. I am now out of bed and learning how to stand and walk again. I know the Lord is with me because he has brought me through some terrible trials these last few months. Thanks again.
Bless you! Janet McIntosh