

The Visitor



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

Bookkeeper

Rod Porter 315-247-7426

Treasurer

George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

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Church Office: 315-635-6442

Fax: 315-635-6963

Normal Summer Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Church office closed:
7/4, 7/11-7/15, 8/1,8,15,22,29

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



Dear Members and Friends of the Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church,

Grace to you, and peace from God who creates, saves, and sustains us!

I am going to take this space – usually used for a seasonal word of encouragement within our newsletter – to address a national issue of concern and conversation. I want to take just a moment to speak to the recent ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of Dobbs vs Jackson Women’s Health Organization. I have received several calls and I have spent some time in conversation with members of our congregation around this and heard from several of these saints that the information we shared might benefit our larger church family.

Without speaking to the merits of the case, or the arguments presented in the majority opinion or the minority dissent, I want to share with you the position of the United Methodist Church regarding the complex and difficult issue of abortion and reproductive rights. It is a nuanced and prayerful position, developed over years of discussion in the church, recognizing the sanctity of unborn life but also recognizing that there are tragic moments when the life of the unborn child may threaten the life and well-being of the mother.

Here is what the United Methodist Church has to say about the issue of abortion, choice, and the sometimes terribly difficult decision about when (or if) to end a pregnancy, From our United Methodist Book of Discipline Paragraph 161K:

“Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion.

“But we are equally bound to respect the sacredness of the life and well-being of the mother and the unborn child.

“We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers. We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection or eugenics (see Resolution 3184).

“We oppose the use of late-term abortion...and call for the end of this practice except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life. This procedure shall be performed only by certified medical providers.

“We call all Christians to a searching and prayerful inquiry into the sorts of conditions that may cause them to consider abortion. We entrust God to provide guidance, wisdom, and discernment to those facing an unintended pregnancy.

“The Church shall offer ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies. We commit our Church to continue to provide nurturing ministries to those who terminate a pregnancy, to those in the midst of a crisis pregnancy, and to those who give birth.

“We mourn and are committed to promoting the diminishment of high abortion rates. The Church shall encourage ministries to reduce unintended pregnancies such as comprehensive, age-appropriate sexuality education, advocacy in regard to contraception, and support of initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all women and girls around the globe.”

I appreciate the spectrum of opinions and experiences that we have as a community of faith, and I look forward to visiting with anyone who would like to talk. I am praying for you and for our nation.

Blessings, Pastor Bill Mudge

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge, Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Summer 2022

CHURCH ON THE ISLAND

JUNE 19 thru SEPTEMBER 4



It is year 7 of Church on the Island! Each week at 8:00 a.m., we celebrate worship with an informal, non-denominational 30-minute service on Papermill Island in Baldwinsville. Our worship time focuses on joy, hope and an uplifting message. Please bring your chair and join us in this beautiful setting for a time of meaningful worship..

SCHEDULE

July 3	Rev. Bill Mudge, Lead Pastor, BFUMC
July 10	Rev. Jeff Hodge, COTI coordinator, BFUMC/PUMC
July 17	Rev. Dr. Carson Mouser, First Presbyterian Church
July 24	Rev. Beth Quick, UMC, Ph.D. student
July 31	Rev. Jeff Hodge, COTI coordinator, BFUMC/PUMC
August 7	Rev. Bill Mudge, Lead Pastor, BFUMC
August 14	Rev. Beth Quick, UMC, Ph.D. student
August 21	Rev. Bj Norrix – Syracuse United Methodist Churches
August 28	Rev. Jeff Hodge, COTI coordinator, BFUMC/PUMC
September 4	Rev. Jeff Hodge, COTI coordinator, BFUMC/PUMC

SAVE THE DATES!

Backpack Blessing & Sundae Sunday –

Sunday, September 11 at 9:00 a.m. and following worship

Sunday School Classes begin! –

Sunday, September 18 at 10:15 a.m. in upstairs classrooms

Fall Fete –

Saturday, September 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – A celebration of our church and our community (Read on for more exciting details)

Anniversary Celebration in Worship –

Celebrating 150+ years in this building and 200+ years as a faith community with a special worship on Sunday, September 25 at 9:00 a.m.

Of Continued Concern:

Helen Falge, Sally Graham, **Pam & Rob Hack**,
Linda Kerwin, Pat Kline, Jim Larmondra,
Janet McIntosh, Shirley McMahon,
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
Dana Kaiser, Donna Foster's son
Jim Kelley, stepfather of Pastor Jeff
Richard Marks, friend of Joan Foster
Robert Metrick, Cheryl Metrick's nephew
Blakely Nowicki, Kisselstein family
Charlene Nowicki, Bonnie Kisselstein's sister
Doris Picco, Andy Picco's mother
Isaiah Poole, Paul Crego's husband
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:

Family & friends of Walter Maihofer
Rebecca Jensen & family on the passing of
her husband, Oscar Jensen
Clara Trew & family on the passing of
her brother-in-law, Frank Pierce
Rocky & Patty Maxwell on the passing of
his brother, Scott Maxwell
Sean & Kate Plucinik and family on the passing of
her mother, Betty Smith
Family & friends of Alice Mary Thomas
Family & friends of Carolyn Eaton

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster, Mildred Long

Bill Barrett – Sedgwick Heights #124A
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #332B
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513
Jack Ferguson – Loretto-Cunningham #517
Dave Horan – Syracuse Home
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



A Summer Garden Labyrinth Walk: (Prayers, Relaxation, Reflections and Fellowship)

On Saturday, July 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., meet our Pastors and the Hands of Hope Group to walk the nearby outdoor beautiful garden Labyrinth, at St. Augustine Church, 7333 O'Brien Road, Baldwinsville, New York (near McNamara Elementary School). Prayers, Relaxation, Reflections, Fellowship, and light refreshments. Walking the Labyrinth is optional.

Please wear your comfortable shoes and bring a folding lawn chair if you have one. Extra chairs will be available. All are welcome. No RSVP needed. Free.

Why Walk the Labyrinth? (from: [Labyrinth - First United Methodist Church \(fumboulder.org\)](http://fumboulder.org))

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, invited the country folk of his time to find a method to listen and live from their deepest source of life within as a means to find their wholeness and creativity. He suggested we become dissipated when we rely on the world to tell us who we “are”. This dissipation would lead to a path of misery because the world is impermanent and always changing.

Consequently, Wesley encouraged each person to develop a method to recollect themselves and journey inward to their sacred center which is abundantly alive and our true nature. Walking the Labyrinth is one of many methods to find a spacious and peaceful simplicity within. The Labyrinth provides a space to listen to one’s inner and outer world and find a slower pace in our busy lives.

Rev. Lauren Artress suggests “by following the one path to the center, the seeker can use the Labyrinth to quiet the mind and find peace and illumination at the center of his or her being. The walk and all that happens on it, can be grasped through the intuitive, pattern-discerning faculty of the person walking it.”

The Labyrinth is open to anyone and any tradition to walk, because it does not require a doctrine to walk meditatively. Adults and children both find the Labyrinth beneficial, and it can be danced, skipped, crawled, or even walked with a cane. “The seeker is only asked to put one foot in front of the other. By stepping into the Labyrinth we are choosing once again to walk the spiritual path.”

This Labyrinth is in the form of a circle with a meandering path from the edge to the center and back out again – large enough to be walked into and out of. The Labyrinth has only one path and once we make the choice to enter it, the path becomes a metaphor for our journey through life. Everybody is invited to walk the Labyrinth!!!

Dear Friends,

On Sunday morning (6/12) a fire destroyed the home of Pam and Robert Hack of 3732 Dutchman Drive, Baldwinsville. An offering has begun to be gathered to help them through this loss. If you would like to participate, please bring your gift to the office of the Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church. We will take the gifts together to the Hack family. Blessings, Pastor Bill Mudge

United Methodist Night at the Ballpark ~ Thursday, July 28 at 6:35 p.m.



Now in its 43rd year, United Methodist Night at the Syracuse NBT Stadium, home of the Syracuse Mets! Opponent is the Omaha (Nebraska) Storm Chasers, a farm team of the Kansas City Royals.

Sponsored by the Crossroads District, United Methodists throughout the Upper New York (UNY) Conference will lead the stadium in the singing of the National Anthem from Home Plate (gather about 6:15 on the field), and UNY Area Resident Bishop, Mark J. Webb, will throw out the ceremonial First Pitch (about 6:20)!

Dollar Thursday night is back! Several stands will have \$1 hot dogs, Coneys, and Coke products.

Also, like the 2021 game, United Methodist Men will hold a block of tickets on the 200 Level (These are seats with cup-holders versus a bench). New this year—third base side tickets, so no glare from the setting sun.



S.A.M.A.S.A.N. – Dinner at the Onondaga Yacht Club

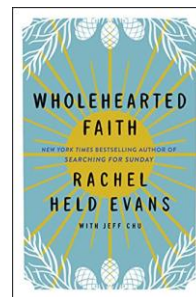
Samasan activities are truly social events for our whole church family. The group simply organizes them. On Saturday July 30 they will be hosting a dinner at Onondaga Yacht Club, in Liverpool off Sycamore Street in Onondaga Lake Park. We will be eating at 6 with nibbles beforehand. Come about 5 and enjoy the evening. Located in the park is the salt museum, bike trail and walking path. Then again you can just sit back on the clubs screened in porch and watch the sailboats out on the lake. Call Jan Beall at 635-1356 by July 23 if you can come. Please bring your table service and your beverage. Coffee will be available. The cost for the dinner is \$20. All are welcome.

EUREKA! BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, July 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. All are welcome.

Whole Hearted Faith by Rachel Evans

Rachel Held Evans is widely recognized for her theologically astute, profoundly honest, and beautifully personal books, which have guided, instructed, edified, and shaped Christians as they seek to live out a just and loving faith. At the time of her tragic death in 2019, Rachel was working on a new book about wholeheartedness. With the help of her close friend and author Jeff Chu, that work-in-progress has been woven together with some of her other unpublished writings into a rich collection of essays that ask candid questions about the stories we've been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, our selves, and our world.



This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of the story of Jesus. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging. An unforgettable, moving, and intimate book. (Amazon)

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August 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel. All are welcome.

The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom

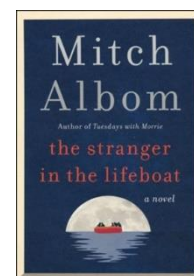
What would happen if we called on God for help and God actually appeared? In Mitch Albom's profound new novel of hope and faith, a group of shipwrecked passengers pull a strange man from the sea. He claims to be "the Lord." And he says he can only save them if they all believe in him.

Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in.

"Thank the Lord we found you," a passenger says. "I am the Lord," the man whispers.

So begins Mitch Albom's most beguiling and inspiring novel yet. ponders what we would do if, after crying out for divine help, God actually appeared before us? What might the Lord look, sound and act like?

In *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, Albom keeps us guessing until the end: Is this strange and quiet man really who he claims to be? What actually happened to cause the explosion? Are the survivors already in heaven, or are they in hell? A fast-paced, compelling novel that makes you ponder your deepest beliefs, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* suggests that answers to our prayers may be found where we least expect them. (Amazon)



We're celebrating with a FALL FETE on Saturday, September 24!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Some of you may have heard mention of the church holding a *Fall Fete* on **Saturday, September 24th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** For others this may be news. Either way you may be wondering, "What is this?" What it is, is an exciting new opportunity to open our doors to the community and celebrate 150 years and counting, centered in the heart of the community, and shine a light on the many non-profits that make Baldwinsville a community with a heart.



A "Fete" is defined as a celebration which often benefits charities. To that end we have invited and will be showcasing Baldwinsville non-profits throughout our church. This is their chance to answer questions and explain their mission.

The Fete is an opportunity for us to open our doors wide to our community. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to visit our beautiful church and enjoy a variety of activities for people of all ages throughout the day. Just a few of the things to expect that day include:



- Different musical performances in the sanctuary
- Refreshments in the dining room
- A walk through our fascinating community and church history in the chapel
- Art activities and entertainment throughout the church
- Community Showcase of our many and diverse non-profits
- An outdoor display of fire and police equipment

To properly celebrate and showcase the church, we need the church (as the song says, "not just the building and not just the steeple, but all the people".) Please join us by sharing your talents, time and resources as we seek to celebrate – and in turn, grow our church, and grow in our own faith. We are setting up teams to work on all pieces of the **Fall Fete**. If you are already working on this, we thank you, and if you would like to learn more or sign up for a team, please sign up in the dining room, or e-mail Sharon Cook at: sat910@gmail.com. Or Rev. Jeff Hodge at: jhodge312@yahoo.com

We look forward to celebrating with you!

In grace and peace,

Sharon Cook, facilitator

Rev. Bill Mudge, Lead Pastor

Rev. Jeff Hodge, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Family Ministries



The Baldwinsville Nursery School

Julie Madden, Director

Last month, the preschoolers of Baldwinsville Nursery School wrapped up an extraordinarily successful school year with a variety of ceremonies and celebrations.

Our kindergarten-bound (4-year-old program) students enjoyed a carnival in the multipurpose room. This end-of-year celebration has become a traditional last-week-of-school event at BNS. What makes the carnival extra special is that the kids actually earn this party through daily acts of kindness in the classroom for the whole 2nd half of the school year. In the 5 years of this tradition, no class has missed out on earning themselves *Kindness Karnval* fun!

The final culmination of the school year for 4-year-old program students was a beautiful graduation ceremony, held traditionally on the Thursday evening of the final week of school. This year, BNS “graduated” 29 preschoolers. Their families were invited to the Church sanctuary where they delighted in seeing their little ones cross the stage (AKA the altar) and switch over the tassels on their homemade graduation caps before treating their guests to a few sweet songs. Graduation evening ended with cupcakes and fellowship in the dining room where the children were simply elated to be with their classmates, teachers, and families all in one place at the same time! Among the adults, sentiments were more bittersweet as gifts, cards, hugs, and words of gratitude were exchanged between parents and teachers.

The BNS 3-year-old class students have a special way of ending the school year as well. Instead of coming to school as usual on the final scheduled day, students and parents meet teachers at Mercer Park where they have a blast playing on such a “big kid” playground structure before the special surprise arrives: an ice cream truck! Students and their younger siblings enjoy a treat while parents and teachers share memories of the school year before goodbye hugs ensue. The best part of this group farewell is when all parties can say “see you in September!” since many are enrolled in a BNS class for the 2022-23 school year. The same is true for our classes of 2-year-old children, who, on the last day, get to go on the BNS/BFUMC playground for the first time!

Given the extreme challenges of staying open safely through the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic years, combined with the fact that the school served more families than ever before in its history, the end of this school year calls for a feeling of particular satisfaction to be shared among the BNS staff, the 76 families that spent the year with us and the Church community. What a mutual blessing: the school is immensely fortunate to be able to operate in the wonderful facility that is the BFUMC. Likewise, our Church leadership and congregation should take great pride and pleasure in having Baldwinsville Nursery School, this long-established and reputable private preschool that has served families in the Baldwinsville community for 47 years, doing such good and important work through our building. Having BNS in our building brings young families into our facility and benefits us financially as well. Due to the high enrollment rate this past school year, the preschool increased its facilities fee payment to the Church by \$3,000.00!

The 2021-2022 school year was one to be celebrated by all! BNS looks forward to a restful summer and return to school in September.

NOTES FROM NANCY

Greetings Baldwinsville First Congregation! As I sit here deciding what to write to you I am getting ready for a meeting tomorrow night with SPRC for my first-year review. This has been a wonderful year in many different ways – musically, spiritually and personally. I look forward to meeting with the committee to discuss future musical plans for Baldwinsville First and to look for ways to improve our worship experiences, to include diverse styles of music and to encourage more to join in the experience.

One way to do that is to help people develop a stronger sense of music and their musical abilities. I plan to do that in July by offering a 2-week course called “CHURCH MUSIC 101”. This class is for NON-musicians and musicians alike. No prior experience is necessary. You will learn the basics of music notation and reading skills, as well as how to understand the very basics of musical knowledge. All you have to do is love music and show up!!

If you’ve ever thought about joining choir but hold back because you don’t read music then THIS is the class for you!! Sign up either on the Choir Room door or in the church office. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

I look forward to working with you all. Blessings, Nancy B. James, Director of Music

Knitting/Craft Group



The Knitting & Craft Group meets Mondays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. All crafters are welcome to join.

During June, July, & August, in good weather, we will meet at Mercer Park. Bring your own chair. If rain is in the schedule for the day, we will meet in the Church Chapel.

Any questions, call Linda Miller, 315-440-6049

Bell Ringers Needed!

Practice Time: Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

First Practice: September 20, 2022

Linda Miller, director: 315-440-6049 (leave a msg)



Rummage sale dates have been set for October 12-15th. Please make note of this on your calendars and as always, thank you all for your continued support. Mickie Lorenz, Co-Chair

GRADUTES 2022



Kathryn Artz (John & Jennifer Artz), Alicia Baldwin (Scott & Treyonne Baldwin), Audrey Benton (Jay & Christine Benton), Ashleigh Bowman (David & Sheryl Bowman), Casey Burke (Dr. Jude & Karen Burke), Ryan Hines (Kevin & Stephanie Hines), Jady Kantak (Jason & Jill Kantak), Jacob Rinn (Charles & Alissa Rinn), Leigh Zacchia (Kevin & Lisa Zacchia)

Guilderland H. S., Guilderland, NY:

Bailey Yerdon (Granddaughter of David & Barbara Stowe)

Cicero-North Syracuse H.S.:

Matthew Metrick (Grandson of Cheryl Metrick)

Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA:

Parker Bowden (Molly Derby's husband)
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Pennsylvania State University:

Erik Sven Peterson-Smith (Nephew of Nancy Smith)
Bachelor of Science: Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology

Kyra Phelps (Brian & Lisa Phelps)
Bachelor of Science: Animal Science
Minors: Agriculture Business Management and International Agriculture

Rochester Institute of Technology:

Peyton Anderson (Chuck & Jackie Anderson)
Bachelor of Science in Game Design & Development, Magna cum Laude

Isabella Wojnovich (Granddaughter of Janet Wojnovich)
Bachelor's Degree in Business & Marketing, Summa cum Laude



07/01 Michael Kasprzak
 07/04 Wes Pray
 Justin Taylor
 07/05 Kyra Phelps
 Tyler Reynolds
 07/07 Summer Austin
 Micah Johnson
 07/08 Elijah Bahamonde
 Darren Gilbert
 Jay Scarson-Barrett

07/09 Amanda Lawrence
 07/10 Sarah Hudson
 Renee Bouchard
 07/11 Leah Bahamonde
 07/12 Jonathon Alfieri
 Ray Abdella
 07/13 Timothy Link
 Dorothy Clary
 07/14 Susan Lawrence
 07/15 Jennifer Hildreth
 07/17 Dave Greer
 James Austin
 07/19 David Metrick
 Joyce Berube
 Timothy Horan
 07/20 Jolene Hurley
 Gene Evans

07/21 Tammy Falconer
 Pete Simmonds
 Liam Sweeney
 Karen Witter
 07/22 Caroline Turner
 07/23 Sophia Cavalieri
 07/24 Claire McMahon
 Sarah Jennings
 07/26 Cindy Bartlett
 07/27 Karen Smith
 Zach Evans
 Tim Miller
 07/28 Eleanor Kieskowski
 07/31 William Falconer
 Andrew Johanson
 Arleen Russ
 Rebecca Jensen



08/02 Elizabeth Noll
 Terry Miller
 08/03 Ethan Pacheck
 08/04 Ali Niemiec
 Lily Horan
 Linda Froats
 08/06 Joseph Monaco

08/07 Drew Picco
 08/08 Olivia Ransiear
 Kaitlyn Dodge
 08/11 Carl Kristeller
 08/12 Tehya Johnson
 Kevin Pregent
 Janet Knapp
 08/13 Lyra Sweeney
 Scott Hudson
 08/15 Chuck Brooks
 Cheryl Metrick
 08/16 Elijah Huling
 08/19 Madison Price
 Daisy Picco
 08/20 Janet Brooks

08/21 Emily Thompson
 08/22 Jack Ferguson
 08/23 Clara Rose Thomas
 Jan Beall
 08/24 Jordie Reed
 Leigh Zacchia
 08/26 Kay Davidson
 08/27 Thomas Derby
 David Marsell
 08/28 Candace Johnson
 Harlow Kisselstein
 08/29 Virginia Guy
 Susan Ranous
 Elizabeth Hildreth
 08/30 Carmey Evans