

# The Visitor



## Senior Pastor

Rev. William Mudge 315-292-0850

## Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

## Administrative Pastor

Rev. Susan Ranous 315-445-1045

## Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gordon Knapp 315-200-1250

## Music Director

Dan Williams 315-406-0232

## Secretary

Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

## Bookkeeper

## Treasurer

George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

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Church Office: 315-635-6442

Fax: 315-635-6963

Summer Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 am–1:00 pm

**Church Office Closed:**

**July 15 - 19 and**

**Mondays: July 29 – September 2**

E-mail: [secretary@bvillefirstumc.org](mailto:secretary@bvillefirstumc.org)

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

## PLEASE NOTE:

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

[Church Calendar](#)



## From the Pastor's Desk

### *"A Sheepdogs Tale"*

**"For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, <sup>14</sup> but through love become enslaved to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ." Galatians 5:1, 13-15 NRSV**

This week we will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, our national Independence Day. There will be parades and barbecue, family gatherings and fireworks. As a nation, we will give thanks for our freedom and the people that have lived and died to secure this freedom for us.

I hope this week, as you celebrate and enjoy your day, that we will each take a while somewhere in the day to reflect on the ultimate liberation that was won for us by our savior Jesus Christ.

In the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul calls on believers to live into the freedom that we have received through the amazing grace and love of God. I have come to see this freedom as not only freedom from the laws of sin and death, but also as freedom to live lives of love and service to God and our neighbors. These "neighbors" include the folks on our street and expands to all creation! Friends and family, yes of course. Our freedom calls us to love and serve the whole of this creation that we have been given stewardship over!

I shared with our children in our children's time recently that the very first question that any human asked God is recorded in the Book of Genesis, from Cain after he killed his brother Abel. God came searching for Abel, and asked Cain in Genesis 4:9, **"Where is your brother Abel?"** The first recorded question from humanity to God followed – **"Am I my brothers' keeper?"**

I believe the rest of the Bible is God's response to Cains question. The answer is YES!!

We are indeed our brother and sister's keeper! We are called to use this awesome freedom we have received in Christ to serve and love!

Come and join us at 9 am on Sunday mornings for our Heritage worship service. We are blessed to offer an American Sign Language Interpreter for hearing impaired at this 9 am service. If you know anyone who might benefit from this ministry, please send them our way! If you are unable to join us in person, we are livestreaming our worship services on Facebook. There are Bible Studies and fellowship opportunities and an open chair reserved just for you! Plan to come and join us – we'll save you a seat!

Serving Christ with You,  
Pastor Bill Mudge

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge

JULY-AUGUST

## Wishing You Every Blessing of Summer!



There are so many fun things to do this summer. We wish you every blessing for a safe and fun with your friends and family. One of our summer joys is offering our free week-long Vacation Bible School (VBS). This year, from **July 8 thru 12**, I will be among the “happy campers” as we offer a summer camp adventure with God! Each day from **9:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.**, we will learn new songs, enjoy a snack, be part of the morning story, do arts and crafts, recreation, and science! So, sign up – bring a friend, wear the color of the day if you can (our first day is purple. Our registration brochure gives us our daily colors and more information), and we will see you soon!



– Pastor Jeff – a/k/a “Happy Camper” the Storyteller.



This whole year was a blessing – from the backpack blessing, to our Family Christmas Eve Service, our weekly Children’s Moments and class time – and so much more! **Children’s Moments continue through the year, but Sunday School during our 9 a.m. service will resume on September 15.** During the Summer, we will have special “**Children Activities**” folders with a weekly lesson, worksheets and coloring pages that will be handed out at Children’s Time.



Two special blessings that happened in June was our **last day of Sunday School** when we finally did have **pizza in the box!** – and we all enjoyed real pizza, after the kids taught us a new song on the bells. The second event was honoring the graduation of **Sophia Cavalieri from Baldwinsville High School**. Here, we have graduates from three different levels – Daisy Picco from Nursery School, Pastor Jeff, who just received his M.Div and High School graduate Sophia. Congratulations!

**Of Continued Concern:**

Mary Anita Berry, **Dave Berube (Crouse)**,  
Dave Horan, Elijah Huling,  
Jim Larmondra, Janet McIntosh,  
Ron Waterbury

**Friends & Neighbors:**

**Judy Barkley, Jeanne Pray's sister**

Francis Bliven, Julia Bliven's husband

**Sharyn Brown, Lynda Benton's sister**

Larry Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen

Carolyn Dixon

Emily Gibbs

William Hobart, friend of the Kisselsteins

Craig Hodge, Pastor Jeff's brother

John Hughes, Joyce Wilkinson's brother

Dana Kaiser, Donna Foster's son

Rudy Kline, Pat Kline's husband

Ian McKay, nephew of Tish & Gene Evans

Susan Mosher, friend of Helen Stafford

Ruby VanDuser, friend of Suzanne Ellis

Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury

Lisa Wilson & family, Judy Herbs' niece

**Dorothy Wolfe, Joyce Berube's mother**

**Pray for our Service Men & Women:**

Holly Abbott, Jeff Coover, Brian Cunningham,  
Casey DeLapp, **Clara J. Derby**,  
James Scott Gibbs, Casey Hargrave, Jeffrey Lucy,  
Dr. Kristen Lucy, Jeffrey Meany, Brandon Merle,  
Benjamin Nordmark, Tyler Reynolds, Peter Slye,  
Richard Slye



**Sympathy to:**

Dave Herlan & family on the passing of  
his brother, Richard Herlan

Dave & Randa Greer and family on the passing of  
his brother, Richard Greer

Lynda Benton and family on the passing of  
her brother-in-law, Tom Benton

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

*Joan Foster, Mildred Long, Clara Rose Thomas*

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Cunningham #504

Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53

**Sharyn Brown – Loretto-Fahey (PT) #370**

Mary Falanga – Syracuse Home #133

Judy Herbs – Elderwood #225D

**Stu Hosler – Syracuse Home (PT)**

Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107

**Arleen Russ – Brookdale Bellevue #48**

**4330 Onondaga Blvd, Syr., NY 13219**

**315-214-3654**

Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401

**Keep our Military List Updated:**

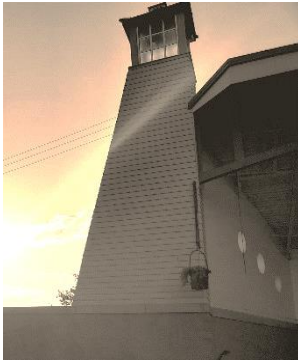
You can call, drop off or email any military service  
updates and give an updated picture, if you would like,  
for the church dining room bulletin board.

( 315-635-6442; [secretary@bvillefirstumc.org](mailto:secretary@bvillefirstumc.org) )

**Please Note:**

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know at  
[secretary@bvillefirstumc.org](mailto:secretary@bvillefirstumc.org).





Season 9 of **Church on the Island** at Papermill Island  
**Sundays at 8:00 a.m.**

Join us for a 30-minute service in a beautiful outdoor setting that runs through Sunday, September 1. This ecumenical offering features different guest preachers and musicians throughout the season. Bring your chair – your morning coffee – and friends and neighbors! Here is our schedule for the rest of the season!

**CHURCH ON THE ISLAND 2024 SCHEDULE**

July 7: Rev. Kirsty Dickson-Maret, First Presbyterian Church, Baldwinsville  
July 14: Rev. Chuck Copps, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Baldwinsville  
July 21: Rev. Beth Quick, The United Methodist Church  
July 28: Rev. Kirsty Dickson-Maret, First Presbyterian Church, Baldwinsville

August 4: Rev. Chuck Copps, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Baldwinsville  
August 11: Rev. Joseph Hannah, Grace Episcopal Church, Baldwinsville  
August 18: Rev. Michael Grinnals, Plainville Christian Church (UCC)  
August 25: Susan Ranous, Administrative Pastor  
Baldwinsville, Liverpool, Pennellville

September 1: Rev. Bill Mudge, Pastor Baldwinsville, Liverpool UMC



**“Camp Firelight:  
A Summer Camp Adventure with God” is our VBS Theme!**

Get ready for our daily adventures with God on July 8 - 12 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. You can register in advance or on opening day for this free Vacation Bible School held throughout the building at BFUMC. Get ready for a great week that includes Lumen, “Lu” the

Lightning Bug Puppet!

- A new Story every day
- A color of the day – Monday: Purple, Tuesday: Green, Wednesday: Orange, Thursday, Blue, Friday, Red
- Music, Crafts, Science, Recreation, and Snacks every day!

Registration forms are in the lobby and dining room!

### Knitting Group

On non-rainy days, we will be meeting at Mercer Park 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. If it is raining, we will meet in the church chapel. No matter what your stitching addiction, you are welcome to join us! Any questions: call or text Linda Miller at 315-440-6049.

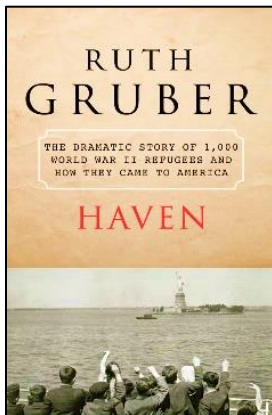
### Men's Summer Bible Study

The **General Epistles**, the short NT books preceding Revelations, were written to guide Christians experiencing tensions in the world around them. Tuesdays, July 9 – August 13 at 6:30 p.m. George Ramseyer (315-720-6184) and David Horan (315-638-2407)

### Chicken BBQ Fundraiser– Saturdays, July 20 and August 31, beginning at 11:00 a.m.



The church thanks all the volunteers who helped at our last BBQ chicken plate fundraiser. It was a fun and joyful day! 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](mailto:awlsr@hotmail.com)). Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



**Eureka! Book Club** invites you to join us in August as we explore “**Haven**” – the dramatic story of 1,000 World War II refugees and how they came to America. We will read the book by Ruth Gruber, see the engaging documentary, and then visit the Haven Museum in Oswego. Attend one or all three events in what promises to be an intriguing exploration this summer!

**\*Thursday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m.** – Haven by Ruth Gruber

**\*Thursday, August 15 at 6:30 p.m.** – Safe Haven the documentary (originally aired on PBS)

**Thursday, August 22 day time gathering TBA.** – *Safe Haven Museum in Oswego* (open 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.) \$19.14 paperback, Amazon.

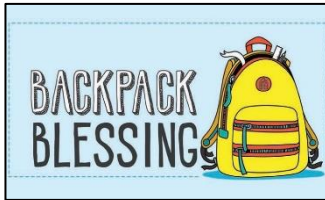
Jeff does have a limited # of copies for sale for \$10. We also have one on the bookshelf in the outer office to borrow for one week at a time.

**\*These dates are different from the printed edition of the newsletter**



### Gardening Help Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help keep the church grounds neat and weed free. Just an hour or two will greatly help! Please contact Karen Picco if you can help (652-2917).



### Many more blessings are in store for us!

On **Sunday, September 8** we will have our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** during our 9 a.m. worship. Bring your book bags and work bags!

On that same day we will host **First Fest**, our annual celebration of beginning the fall season, a chance to register for Sunday School in the fall, and an opportunity to see all the ministries of the church “first” hand and up close – and ask questions, and sign up for events, groups, and studies! – Pastor Jeff

**DONATE YOUR  
CANS AND BOTTLES  
TO HELP FUND OUR  
FREE VBS**



Please start a Rummage Sale box or spot this summer. Your generous “treasures” are needed to help make our sale a success. Take-in days: Wednesday/Thursday (10/2 & 10/3) and Sale Days: Friday /Saturday (10/4 and 10/5).

Blessings and thank you! Mickie Lorenz & Ron Berry, Co-chairs

## GRADUATES 2024



### **C.W. Baker High School**

Sierra Burke (Dr. Jude & Karen Burke); Sophia Cavalieri (Beth Cavalieri, Grandparents: Jeanne & Wes Pray); Raina Du Fresne (Victoria Ujlaky); Madelyn Ransiear (Paul & Megan Ransiear); Cadence Rock (Kelly Hosmer); Mikey Spinner (Brent & Michelle Spinner)

### **Baldwinsville Nursery School**

Daisy Picco

Christopher Picco & Marie Davison  
Grandparents: Andy & Karen Picco

### **Solvay Union Free Elementary School**

Gabriel Picco, Kindergarten

Christopher Picco & Marie Davison  
Grandparents: Andy & Karen Picco

### **Burr & Burton Academy , Manchester VT**

Weston Nolan

Diane & Jason Nolan  
Grandparents: Jeanne & Wes Pray

### **Clarkson University**

Ruth Nolan, Bachelor of Science Degree  
in Global Supply Chain Management

Diane & Jason Nolan  
Grandparents: Jeanne & Wes Pray

### **Methodist Theological School**

Rev. Jeff Hodge, Master of Divinity

### **SUNY Oswego**

Zachary Evans, BA Psychology  
Magna Cum Laude

Tim & Carmey Evans

### **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Sarah Haley, Dr. of Pharmacy Degree

Grandmother: Olivia Oyer-Halen

### ***WOW! – Did you know . . .?***

Congratulations to the five Ray Middle School students who received the Triple “C” Award! The Attorney General’s Triple “C” Awards program recognizes the commitment, character and courage of New York State’s most exceptional young people. **Karen Smith**, Jack Tatem, Owen Shires, Riley Mattoon and Bella Tapia. **Congratulations, Bees!**

(If you know someone deserving of recognition, please let us know)

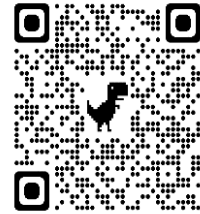


## Church Giving

If you are not in church, you can continue supporting our church using automatic payments on your on-line bank account or the church's on-line payment system.

Using your bank's on-line bill payment feature, you can set up an automatic payment where your bank sends a check to the church. You control the frequency and amount of the payment. Simply use Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church, 17 W. Genesee Street, Baldwinsville NY 13027, indicate the amount and frequency of payment. Most banks do not charge you any additional cost for this feature.

The church also has an on-line payment system thru VANCO. Go to the on-line church's website [www. https://www.bvillefirstumc.org](https://www.bvillefirstumc.org) and on the right-side column press 'Online Giving – Make a Donation'. You set up your account and make your donation to the general fund or other areas listed. You will go to a screen where you can enter the amount, frequency of payment and if you want to pay using a bank account or credit card. You will have the option to offset the charge the church incurs for this system.



If you prefer to use a mobile device (cell phone), use the following QR code and it will take you to the on-line payment system from VANCO. Follow the same procedure to set up your contribution as the on-line system. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z7C7/home>

For more information, contact Rocky Maxwell, Chair of Finance Committee (315) 488-5700. Thank you for supporting our church.

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## L'Arche Syracuse

**We're Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Come celebrate with us!**

**Who:** L'Arche Syracuse

**What:** 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**When:** October 11, 2024

**Where:** LeMoyne College at the Campus Center  
The James Commons & Curtain Special Event Room

**Time:** 5:00pm – 9:00pm

**Price:** \$50.00 per person

Our very own Ian Nordmark is a member of L'Arche Syracuse and has been helping out in the church office for many years now with his wonderful shredding machine.

Thank you, Ian!

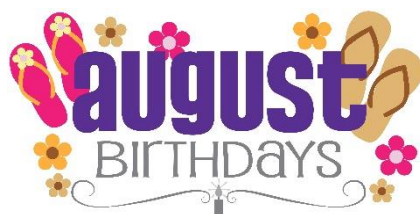
For more information, please reach out to our office at (315) 479-8088.



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 Renee Bouchard  
       Sarah Hudson  
 07/11 Leah Bahamonde  
 07/12 Ray Abdella  
       Jonathon Alfieri  
 07/13 Tim Link  
 07/14 Susan Lawrence  
 07/17 James Austin  
       Dave Greer  
 07/19 Joyce Berube  
       Tim Horan  
       David Metrick  
 07/20 Gene Evans  
       Jolene Hurley

07/21 Tammy Falconer  
       Pete Simmonds  
       Liam Sweeney  
       Karen Witter  
 07/22 Caroline Turner  
 07/23 Sophia Cavalieri  
 07/24 Sarah Jennings  
       Claire McMahon  
 07/27 Zach Evans  
       Tim Miller  
       Karen Smith  
 07/28 Eleanor Kieskowski  
 07/31 William Falconer  
       Rebecca Jensen  
       Andrew Johanson  
       Arleen Russ (99)



08/02 Terry Miller  
       Elizabeth Noll  
 08/03 Ethan Pacheck  
 08/04 Linda Froats  
       Lily Horan  
       Ali Niemiec  
 08/06 Joseph Monaco  
 08/07 Drew Picco  
 08/08 Kaitlyn Dodge  
       Olivia Ransiear

08/11 Carl Kristeller  
 08/12 Tehya Johnson  
       Janet Knapp  
       Kevin Pregent  
 08/13 Scott Hudson  
       Plant Sweeney  
 08/15 Chuck Brooks  
       Cheryl Metrick  
 08/16 Elijah Huling  
 08/19 Daisy Picco  
       Madison Price  
 08/20 Janet Brooks  
 08/21 Emily Thompson

08/23 Jan Beall  
       Clara Rose Thomas (96)  
 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  
 08/30 Carmey Evans