

The Visitor



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PLEASE NOTE:

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

[Church Calendar](#)



From the Pastor's Desk

"A Sheepdogs Tale"

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Genesis 1:26-28 NRSV

Did you get to see the Harvest Moon the other evening? The mornings are getting cooler, and the leaves are showing off BEAUTIFUL colors. Our kids and grandkids are back in school, and the calendar has officially turned from summer to fall. As the leaves turn, our congregation enters a beautiful month focused on stewardship. Stewardship is a broadly misunderstood concept in my opinion. Many of us, clergy and laity, shy away from this area, treating it as if it were the proverbial 3rd rail of theology – touch it and you might be dismissed!

Jesus did not feel this way. In fact, if you look at the text from Genesis that I printed above, the conversation of the entire Bible seems to build on the foundation of stewardship. In Genesis 1 human beings are given responsibility to care for this entire beautiful creation, lock, stock and barrel.

We recognize and accept this call to be caretakers of creation in our baptism and church membership vows. We promise to faithfully participate in the life and ministries of our local congregation through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Take a few moments this crisp fall season to measure your promise keeping in these vows. Will you pray for our congregation? This is the area that moves and supports the rest – prayer is the engine room of our church. Will you attend, will you be present? There will be 52 Sundays in the year ahead – how many of those Sundays will you keep this vow? Will you support our mission financially with your gifts? Will you work together with the saints to accomplish Kingdom tasks? Your witness grows out of the way you live into the first four vows – we can do BIG things, Kingdom sized things together.

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 YouTube and 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

(This message is not in the printed version of the October newsletter)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge

October 2024

Friends,

Not just the trees and weather are changing but fall signifies changes in the church as we become more active in worship and the various studies and programs of the church after a quieter summer. Our First Fest, held on September 8, was a wonderful opportunity to see up close the ministries offered by the church. Using a Carnival Theme with yours truly as the Barker, we invited folks to “Step right up and see the ministries of the church”.

Throughout the newsletter, you will see updates and invitations for a variety of new and established ministries. My prayer is that you will spend time exploring these new opportunities. Here are just a few I want to highlight:



Sunday School – We are going **BIG** this year with our BIG Faith classroom, which begins right after the Children’s Moment during our 9:00 a.m. worship. Our October schedule is in this issue.

Youth Group – The Youth Group begins on Sunday, October 6 here at church with a CROP Walk in our neighborhood, followed by hot dogs and S’mores. More details of the year ahead are in this issue.

Eureka! Book Club – We are re-imagining our Book Club in 2025 with movies based on books and some panel discussions sprinkled among our popular book discussions. Our October selection is The Bridge Home by Pamela Venkatraman. More details on that book and our November topic are in this issue.

War Room – A movie and future study about prayer as a powerful weapon. I hope you will join us on Saturday, October 19 for this compelling movie hosted by an emerging ministry here at BFUMC led by Alice Black. Details are in this issue.

Trunk or Treat – BFUMC was one of the very first local churches and organizations to host this fun, safe, Halloween event. Join us on Saturday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. for trunks full of fun. There are more details in today’s issue.

I hope to see you in many places as we walk together in faith this fall! – Pastor Jeff

Of Continued Concern:

Dave Berube, Elijah Huling,
Jim Larmondra, Janet McIntosh,
Ron Waterbury

Friends & Neighbors:

Judy Barkley, Jeanne Pray's sister
Francis Bliven, Julia Bliven's husband
Larry Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen
Carolyn Dixon
John Hughes, Joyce Wilkinson's brother
Dana Kaiser, Donna Foster's son
Rudy Kline, Pat Kline's husband
**Joseph Patrick Leonard, friend of Ron Root
Dave M.**

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:

Sally Waite Dayger & family on the passing of
her great-nephew, Matthew Waite
Eileen & Ray Rice and family on the passing of
their son-in-law, Steven Cook
Bob & Alice Black and family on the passing of
his aunt, Ellen Donato

Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:

Joan Foster, Mildred Long, Clara Rose Thomas

Beverly Archer – Elderwood (PT) #111D

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Cunningham #504
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53
Mary Falanga – Syracuse Home #133
Judy Herbs – Elderwood #225D
Stu Hosler – Syracuse Home (PT)
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107
Arleen Russ – Brookdale Bellevue #48
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)

A Thank You

Dear friends,

I am so grateful to you for your prayers and for your kindness during a particularly difficult time for me and for my family. I was privileged to be able to spend precious time with my brother in his final days and to also be able to be with my mother after the death of her husband, Jim, and remain to officiate his funeral. As you all know, that time, as difficult as it is, is absolutely priceless, and I thank you for being patient and generous during that time and giving me that space to care for myself and my family, and grieve my losses. Blessings and Peace, Jeff

Crossroads District Charge Conference 2024
Baldwinsville, Liverpool and Pennellville will be together
at the Cicero UMC on Monday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Children's & Family Ministries at BFUMC

Please pray this or a prayer of your own every day:

Lord God, we thank you for every blessing and ask that you continue to empower and engage us in our Christian faith. May we continue to be blessed to be a blessing and find new ways to reach out to children and their families so that may better know you and be encouraged in their own faith walk, help us to use our gifts to develop ministries for all ages, and help equip my gifts so that I may better serve you. Amen.



Children's & Family Ministries

This year's Sunday School program is called **BIG** Faith. All year we are learning about our faith through a big lens! Join us on this adventure each Sunday morning. We escort children to Sunday School from Children's Moment and we return during the closing hymn. Children 4-12 are welcome to be our weekly adventure.

In September, we focused on God's Masterpiece. Reading Genesis, we learned all about God's amazing Creation. Our first unit ends on Sunday, October 6, learning how "God creates Helpers".

Our second unit, ***Promise Builder: "God keeps God promises"*** begins on Sunday, October 13 with God's promises to his people. Hearing the stories of Genesis, we will discover God's Promise to Noah, God's Promise to Abraham, God's Promise to Sarah, and God's Promise to Jacob. Sunday School is led every week by Linda Miller, Emma Webster, and Pastor Jeff.



Youth are invited to be part of our twice-monthly Youth Group, which meets on Sunday evenings 4:00-6:00 p.m.

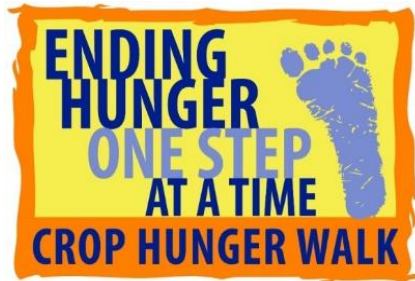
Join us for our **Kick-Off Sunday** on October 6 at 4:00 p.m.:

- We will walk the CROP Walk in our neighborhood (please collect at least \$20 from family and friend in advance of that day)
- We will gather around the fire pit outside after the walk
- Hot dogs and S'Mores around the fire pit

Here is a preview of *upcoming* weeks:

- October 20 Kitchen fun with apples, apples & more apples
- November 3 Scavenger Hunt
- November 17 Thanksgiving Dinner prep and Thanksgiving related activities
- December 1 First Sunday of Advent & Hanging of the greens (May be held earlier)
- December 22 Churchwide Caroling & Las Posadas
- January 5, 2025 Youth Epiphany Party
- January 26, 2025 Snowshoeing at Beaver Lake, warm up at church after

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CROP Walk – Sunday, October 6

Our church participates every year in the annual CROP Walk to raise money for the food pantries. This year we will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. and walk around the village of Baldwinsville, learning a little about the history as we go. It will coincide with the beginning of our Youth Group meetings, but we invite all members of the church to participate. We ask that each walker donate money to this worthwhile cause, some of which comes back to the Food Pantry housed in our church. In addition, we will do a “Noisy Change” offering in church during the 9:00 a.m. service on the 6th.

RUMMAGE



Donation days: October 2 & 3, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sale days: October 4, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

October 5, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (\$4 Bag Day)
with a Bake Sale (*Friday only*) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Cheery Visitor Team will hold a **Bake Sale** at the Rummage Sale on Friday, October 4 at the church. Baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Thursday, October 3, as well as Friday. It is helpful if single items are already cut and packaged before we receive them. Proceeds are used to pay for cards, stamps and flowers for the upcoming year. Thank you.

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 Dave Horan (315-415-0229), Ron Berry (315-935-6983) or Mickie Lorenz (315-877-0087). 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.

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, October 12 beginning 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.

It's Movie Time!



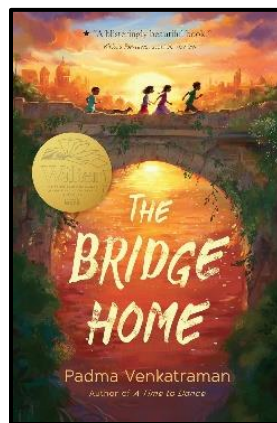
Join us **Saturday, October 19th** for the movie **“War Room”**.

This movie offers valuable lessons about the transformative power of prayer, forgiveness, and gratitude. It reminds us that prayer is not a passive act but a dynamic force that can shape our lives and bring us closer to our faith. By incorporating these teachings into our daily routines, we can find strength, solace, and profound change. **Please make a reservation by October 14.** You can sign up in the Fellowship Hall OR you can send an email to secretary@bvillefirstumc.org (subject line: Movie Event) with the name of each person planning to attend to ensure your seat.

Eureka! Book Club

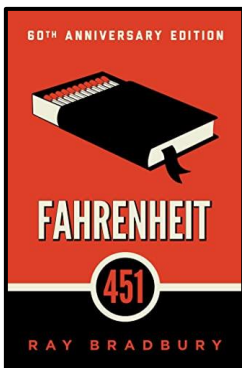
October 22, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. – The Bridge Home by Pamela Venkatraman.
Our book leader is Lisa Kisselstein.

Four determined homeless children make a life for themselves in Padma Venkatraman's stirring middle-grade debut. Life is harsh in Chennai's teeming streets, so when runaway sisters Viji and Rukku arrive, their prospects look grim. Very quickly, 11-year-old Viji discovers how vulnerable they are in this uncaring, dangerous world. Fortunately, the girls find shelter - and friendship - on an abandoned bridge. With two homeless boys, Muthi and Arul, the group forms a family of sorts. And while making a living scavenging the city's trash heaps is the pits, the kids find plenty to laugh about and take pride in, too. After all, they are now the bosses of themselves and no longer dependent on untrustworthy adults. But when illness strikes, Viji must decide whether to risk seeking help from strangers or to keep holding on to their fragile, hard-fought freedom.



Coming Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. –

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. Our book leader is Pastor Jeff.



Fahrenheit 451 is part of our annual “Read a Classic” series at Eureka! This is a particularly timely read as 33 states banned books in school libraries and classrooms last year!

Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbor, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.

TRUNK OR TREAT!

Saturday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the BFUMC Parking Lot



Join us for our annual **Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 26th beginning at 5:30 p.m.** If you are having a trunk, please be here by 5:00 p.m. We close our lot at 5:15 p.m. Decorate your car, wear a costume if you would like, and be prepared to hand out between 150-200 candy or non-food treats! Forms to sign up a trunk are located in the dining room and the narthex.

L'Arche Syracuse

We're Celebrating our 50th Anniversary! Come celebrate with us!

Who: L'Arche Syracuse

What: 50th 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.



10/02 Bethany Cole
David Smallwood
10/03 Shirley Eisenhauer
10/05 Derrick Taylor
Jack Kenney
10/07 John Monroe

10/08 Esther Pacheck
Edward Froats
Nathan Georger
10/10 PatsyAnn Stone
10/11 Olivia Webster
Shad Miller
10/12 Maurice Hay
10/13 Jacob Ramseyer
Courtney Cook
10/14 Steven Monaco
10/15 Joshua Price

10/18 Fred Sage
Ellen Jennings
10/19 Kelsey DeLola
10/20 Dave Horan
10/21 Erin Bahamonde
Megan Sollecito
10/24 Andy Picco
10/25 Barbara Herlan
10/26 Lynda Benton
10/27 Dave Sacia
10/31 Joyce Ramseyer

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>.



Thank you for supporting our church.