







## Thunder and Lightening

It may sound weird, but one of my favorite things about Central New York is the thunderstorms. No other place I've lived had such powerful, frequent, and long lasting storms. I didn't always like the storms, though. When I was little, the bright flashes, booming thunder, and roaring downpour were frightening, to say the least. Over the years I grew to love the storms and began to notice some things about them.

-  they can come on quickly
-  they can be really scary
-  they are powerful beyond belief
-  there's nothing I can do to stop them
-  they come every year without fail
-  everything always looks greener afterward

Sounds a lot like the rest of life, doesn't it? We all go through thunderstorms in our lives and they're usually just like the ones I described above. They're unpredictable, scary, overwhelming, unstoppable, and inevitable. Life comes with storms. Sometimes, out of God's great mercy, He'll come into our lives and calm the storm. He'll stand between the chaos and us, sheltering us from the driving rain. But I believe that's the exception. More often, instead of calming the storm, God calms our hearts. Instead of stopping the storm, He carries us through.

Sometimes we stand firm, sometimes we cower, but we come through the storm. Then, after the last flash and the last boom and the last raindrop, if we will just open our eyes, we'll be startled at how alive the world looks. We'll see that we just didn't survive a storm, God walked with us and now new life surrounds us.

-Pastor Matt



behind the fig leaf




## Summer Blockbuster Series

It's that time of year when the big movies come out at the theater and the big stories come out at church. Beginning July 12<sup>th</sup>, we're looking at the story of how it all began. Go with us **Behind the Fig Leaf** as we take a new look at what really happened with the first superstars, Adam and Eve. Together we'll discover what the story of that first couple teaches us about our life and about God.


## July Highlights

-  Independence Day  
Monday, July 4
-  Chocolate Day  
Tuesday, July 7
-  Let's All Go to Church Day  
Sunday, June 12
-  Friends and Neighbors Cookout  
Sunday, July 12 @ 5pm
-  National Ice Cream Day  
Sunday, July 19

## Looking Ahead

-  Boomerang Express Outreach Day  
Sunday, August 2
-  Boomerang Express VBS  
August 9-13 @ 6pm
-  VBS Family Barbie  
Friday, August 14 @ 6pm

## Congratulations!!

 Heather Doherty, Melissa Galvin,  
and Chelsea Smith  
**You made it!!!**

## Friends and Family Cookout

Don't forget **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**. Join us for our annual cookout and bring along your friends and neighbors. If you would like to bring something, check out the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

## In Our Prayers

Louise Barone	Tristyn Eaton
Diane Benjack	Julie Ferguson
Bhutanese Refugees	Diana Heald
Charlotte Churchill	Veronica Hutt
Pam Creel	Jim Lupole
Alex Czyczerski	Candee Pascarella
Jean Czyczerski	Steve Sallis
Maryann Desocio	Beverly VanSlyke
Violet Draves	Michelle Wilkinson



# What Can I Do?

**Great question!** VBS is our greatest outreach to our community. Each year we have a terrific time sharing the love of Jesus with the kids and lives are changed forever. There are a bunch of different ways for you to be a part of reaching the kids for Jesus. Look through the list and find out how you can hop on board the Boomerang Express.

- ◆ Pray for the children, their families, and our teachers and leaders. (see our prayer calendar)
- ◆ Invite the children in your neighborhood.
- ◆ Donate bottled water and juice boxes.
- ◆ Donate items listed on the VBS Bulletin Board.
- ◆ Invite neighbors during our Boomerang Express Outreach event on Sunday, August 2. We'll pass out door hangers after the Worship Celebration.
- ◆ Help with the set-up and/or tear down of the Moon Bounce and other items during the week.
- ◆ Help set-up, prepare, and serve during the Family Night Barbie on Friday, August 14.

## BIRTHDAYS

Say **Happy Birthday** to:

- Paula Dodd - July 11**
- Kaye Dodd - July 17**
- Paul Dodd - July 17**
- Jim Youmans - July 20**
- Bill Guckert - July 20**
- Joshua Bostain - July 26**
- Nancye Igleheart - July 30**

## ANNIVERSARIES

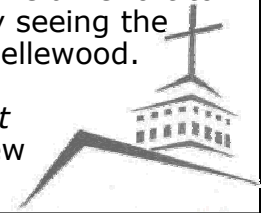
**Deborah & Jim Youmans - July 19**

### Let's All Go to Church Sunday

It's always great looking around and seeing all the new faces blessing Bellewood each week. We know not everyone makes it every week, so that's why we celebrate

**Let's all Go to Church Sunday on July 12<sup>th</sup>.** Here's our chance to get to see EVERYONE God has brought here to be the Bellewood family. Let's make an effort to get all of us here and enjoy seeing the people God is bringing to Bellewood.

Also, don't forget the *Friends and Family Cookout* that evening and bring a few **new** faces with you.



445 Church Street at Hamilton Road  
North Syracuse, New York 13212  
315.458.5824 [www.bellewoodchurch.com](http://www.bellewoodchurch.com)

