



*So All May Know Joy*

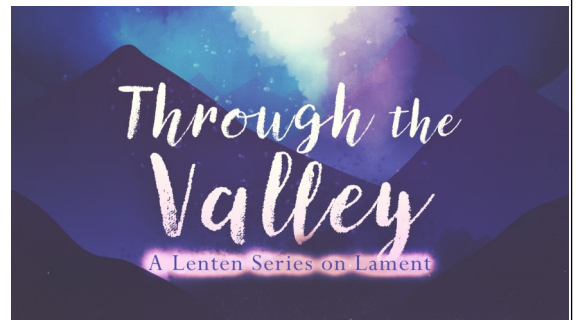
## **BUMC Weekly Connection—Feb 16**

**This Sunday, Feb 18 @ 9:00 am**

Also on Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook Page & YouTube!

### **New Sermon Series—Through the Valley: A Lenten Series**

Just as Jesus wandered in the wilderness for forty days, so too can we feel like we are wandering in the wilderness, as we face hardships, grief, temptations, and injustices. This Lent, we will discover what it means to wander these parts of life in honesty with God through the practice of lament. We will learn how crying out to God in our need can help us to fully embrace what it means to be human beings held and loved by a God we can trust. We will learn that even through the darkest valleys, Jesus both goes ahead of us and walks with us.



### **This Sunday — Honestly Facing Our Humanity | Psalm 13**

In Lent, lament invites us to face our humanity. Lament is a natural part of our faithful, loving response to a world marked by sin and brokenness.

### **Scripture Reading | Psalm 13**

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?  
Look on me and answer, LORD my God.  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,  
and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"  
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.  
But I trust in your unfailing love;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation.  
I will sing the LORD's praise,  
for he has been good to me.



### **Next Week — Being Honest With God | Job 13:1-13**

Job's response to his friends ensures us that we can be honest with God in even the most painful situations, trusting God to be God in the process.

**Sunday Fellowship** Check out the coffee, treats and great conversation after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



## Other Ministry Updates

- Feb 18** 9:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Fellowship
- 10:00 am No Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chili Cook-off
- Feb 20** 7:00 pm SPRC Team Meeting
- Feb 21** 6:00 pm Lenten Meal
- 6:35 pm Lent Service
- 6:30 pm Lenten Series for kids
- 7:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- Feb 25** 9:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Fellowship
- 10:00 am Education Hour
- 10:00 am FSS Communion Class

### It's Chili Cook Off Time!!

Since we live in MN we know winters can be cold!! But, one thing heats things up every year and that's our chili cook off! This Sunday, **Feb 18th** is the day. And its not too late to bring your chili. Tasters are needed so please plan to stay and be our judges after fellowship!



**American Red Cross**

Blood Services

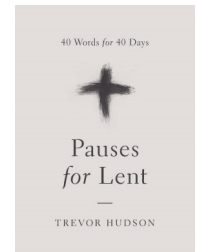
**Ottie Otness Memorial Blood Drive**

Buffalo United Methodist Church will host a Red Cross Blood drive on **February 29th from 10AM to 4PM**. There is currently a critical need for blood. Donating at this drive will help supply blood for accident victims, surgical patients and others for whom blood transfusions can be life saving. All donation appointments are currently full but walk-ins are welcome, however, waiting times will vary as these donations will be worked in as time permits. Each donor will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift card through their e-mail within 6 weeks after donation.

We are also **in need of volunteers** and are looking for people who will sit at the registration table or help at the canteen with refreshments. We are asking for 2-hour commitments. If you would like to help with registration, some basic computer knowledge is necessary. Please let Rita Varner-Otness know if you are willing to help at this event at 763-682-5256 or [ritaraevo@gmail.com](mailto:ritaraevo@gmail.com).

### Lent Series

We will be having Wed. night services, with a congregational supper at **6:00** and then a short service from **6:35-7:15**. The book we will be reading from is called *Pauses for Lent - 40 Words for 40 Days*. We will have them available for sale for \$10 starting next Sunday. Join us each Wed as we hear readings, reflect on our journey, and sing our way to the cross.



While the adults are in the sanctuary, Children's Ministry will continue our tradition of hosting a Lenten Series for kids and youth ages 3+. Andrea Gravley is busy planning some awesome activities to help our kids experience the walk to the cross as well. She is looking for an additional adult or high school **volunteer** each **Wednesday** evening from approximately **6:30 - 7:15pm**. If you can help, please sign up! Feel free to reach out to [Andrea](#) directly with any questions!

### Two Worship Services

Starting in March, we will be having a second service on the first Sunday of each month through May. This means we will be having a contemporary service at **9:00 am** and a traditional service at **10:30 am**. The summer will go back to one service and then we will reassess for the fall. More details will be coming soon.



### Help Make Our Easter Garden Happen

Our beautiful, Easter Resurrection Garden on **March 31** only happens with

your generous donation of flowers! Your flower or cash donation may be given in honor or in memory of someone if you wish. Flowers will be available for pick up after the service on **April 7**. Ordering instructions will follow soon.

### Blankets for Beds

Donate new or gently used blankets/linens by calling the church office for drop off or if you need them picked up, call Dianne McLain 763-682-2260. The need is still great.



## Other Ministry Updates

### Staff Spotlight (shining a light on our gifted BUMC staff)

Andrea Gravely,  
Children and Family  
Ministry Coordinator.  
My middle name is  
Margaret. I was born in  
the blizzard of 1979 in



Aurora, IL. I am the 2nd daughter of 4, I have an  
older sister and younger twin sisters. I moved to  
MN after college and now have spent over ½ my  
life here! This month I will have been married to  
Collin for 20 years. We have 2 teenage children,  
Carter and Dalinda and 2 crazy cats (Harley &  
Tootsie).

I went to school for nursing and have been in  
the profession for over 20 years as well. I  
currently work for Children's of MN in the  
hospital setting, when I am not here!

Things I love: plants/flowers, gardening and  
canning, baking and finding new recipes to  
cook, animals of all kind (I would really love a  
hobby farm, or so I think)! I love to travel to new  
places (near and far). I love all the seasons, but  
mostly love sunshine on my face. I don't  
consider myself athletic, but I love to walk, hike,  
bike and do Pilates. I also don't consider myself  
artistic, but love crafting, decorating and  
repurposing items.

### Prayer Shawl

In January of 2007 Arlene  
Nelson invited people to join  
her in a Prayer Shawl  
Ministry. Anyone who could  
knit and/or crochet started gathering on the  
4th Monday of the month and are still gathering  
to this day. Over the years 523 Prayer Shawls  
have been handed out to members of our  
church as well as to others in the community. In  
addition to making the Prayer Shawls, this  
group makes scarves, hats and baby blankets to  
give to the Food Shelf. It is a very informal  
gathering so please consider joining them in this  
ministry. The next meeting is **Monday, February  
26 at 1:00.**



### Apportionments for 2024

We are fortunate to be part of a connectional  
church, and apportionments are the local  
financial commitment we make to the greater  
United Methodist Church. This amount is  
calculated by the conference using a formula  
based primarily on operating budget, and  
slightly on membership numbers. These funds  
support administration, pensions, mission  
infrastructures, ministry training and so much  
more! The total amount BUMC is asked to pay  
for 2024 is \$36,082, which works out to \$139.00  
per member. Some people feel good about  
paying that amount up front in addition to their  
regular giving; others consider it to be a part of  
their regular pledge. Either way, we want you to  
be aware that as a member of this congregation,  
\$139.00 is sent on to the conference on your  
behalf out of our general fund.

### Summer Camp

Summer 2024 camp registration is open! Don't  
forget about the Early Bird incentive. Register  
before April 30 and receive a \$25 Camp Store  
Credit. Save even more by bringing a friend with  
you to camp. Click [HERE](#) for details. All BUMC  
youth who register for a UMC camp this  
summer will receive 50% off tuition, as well as  
all 1st-time adults. You will find additional  
information in the front entry.

### Fifth & Sixth Grade Faith Stepping Stone

Our Communion Faith Stepping Stone class is  
**February 25 at 10am** and **March 3** in worship.  
Our fifth & sixth graders will learn about  
communion and bake the bread that we will  
serve in worship. On **Sunday, March 3** they will  
help serve communion, and we will offer a  
blessing over them. As part of their Faith  
Stepping Stone, they also receive an additional  
\$100 gift toward UM church camp registration.

### Secure Giving



### Worship Registration



# Meet Our New Members

February 4, 2024



**Scott & Jan Bjore (Bee-yore-e)**

2848 - 11th St NW Buffalo, MN 55313  
(763) 682-3083

You may remember the Bjore's from years past. They were members here for over 20 years. Scott is a retired sheriff's deputy and enjoys woodcutting. Jan is a retired public health nurse and enjoys being the Wright County Historical Society Director and volunteer. Together they enjoy fishing, gardening, and spending time at their cabin. They have one adult daughter and 2 "furry" grandkids. They are joining by reaffirming their membership vows.



**Jan Jefferson**

11446 16th Place NE Saint Michael, MN 55376  
(763) 464-1500

Jan has been worshipping with us since January and felt immediately connected. She is transferring from Crosswinds UMC in Maple Grove. Jan is retired and enjoys spending her time crafting and camping. She has 3 adult sons, two in Bemidji and one in Rogers.



**Bruce Dougherty**

2406 Greenbriar Lane Buffalo, MN 55313  
(701) 308-1277

Bruce has been worshipping with us for over 4 years now. He is originally from Wyoming and is retired. He enjoys pickleball, walking, kayaking, and spending time with his grandkids (4). He has one son in Alexandria, Mn. and his daughter Beth who is married to Josh Ristow and are members of our church. They have one daughter, Hannah.



**Sarah Kennedy  
Harland & Clara**

906 6th Ave NW Buffalo, MN 55313  
(612) 382-7958

Sarah has joined our membership by profession of faith. She is a stay-at-home mom and a catalog designer, part-time. She enjoys reading, walking, and spending time with her family, husband Daniel and children Harland (4) and Clara (2).



**Mary Kortum**

504 Creekside Drive Buffalo, MN 55313  
(763) 439-2413

Mary is joining by reaffirming her membership vows as she was also a previous member before moving to Florida. Her two sisters are members of our church also, Louise and Amy Fouquette and nephew Tony Fouquette. Mary enjoys movies and reading.



**Gayle Reed**

1210 Westfarm Lane Buffalo, MN 55313  
(515) 368-0233

Gayle is a transfer from Fort Dodge, IA. She has been with us for a little over a year. Gayle is a retired financial assistant, and she enjoys singing. She has one son and daughter-in-law in North Carolina with two children of their own and son and daughter-in-law in Maple Grove with their first child due in March.



**Marcia Plaschko**

20 - 6th Street NE Apt 305 Osseo, MN 55369  
(763) 486-5064

Marcia is joining by profession of faith and has been worshipping here for several years. Her dad, Norm Grimme is also a member here. Marcia is an administrative clerk at Allstate Peterbuilt. She has 2 adult children, one son and one daughter and 3 grandchildren.



**Chris & Genevieve Stockwell  
Adler**

413 11th St NW Buffalo, MN 55313  
(605) 254-8154

The Stockwell's join us by profession of faith and have attended since the summer of 2023. Chris is a dental hygienist and Genevieve is a senior accountant. Chris enjoys fishing and being outside. Genevieve likes to crochet. Together they enjoy camping. Adler likes balls, trucks, puzzles and music and is 15 months old.