

So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection **April 24, 2020**

“Caring for God’s Creation” Worship Series—Now through May

God is not a negligent parent, giving birth to creation and then abandoning it. God is actively present in all of creation. We can learn about God’s character and plan by becoming more aware of God’s loving care of creation. Not only will our worship focus on this theme through May 31, but many opportunities to actively participate in creation care activities, large and small, will be presented to you as well. We are stewards of this earth, lovingly gifted us by our Creator, so together we will both celebrate that and step up to do our part!

Sunday, April 26, 9:00 am on Buffalo United Methodist Church’s Facebook Page



And It Was Good

God created all things and declared them good. God’s creative act was purposeful and intimate, with all of creation testifying to the character and plan of God. The goodness of God’s creation, not the sinfulness of people, is the true starting point for those seeking to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. This week Pastor Bill takes us all the way back to Genesis to explore the miracle of creation.

Sunday School

Join Debbie at 10:00 am on Sunday as we talk about the personal transformation we experience when we become followers of Jesus! Please watch your email for the ZOOM invite!

Share your Love for Creation on our BUMC Facebook page!!

As we experience our worship series "Caring for God's Creation" through the end of May, we encourage you to post images or videos of the ways that you are caring for the earth on our Facebook page. Did you see the birdhouses made by Esther Kiphuth and recently put out by the Vidmar family? (Note the creatively repurposed one!) Did you see the road ditch cleaning efforts by Brenda Lenz, the Larson family and the Otnesses? Check out the great pics and decide on an activity you can post! Are you planting a garden? Installing a rain barrel? Planting a tree? Recycling an appliance?

This is a way to celebrate our earth, and encouragement to others, so don’t be shy! If you need help posting something, just send to Laurie@BuffaloUMC.com.



Other Ministry Updates

Loving Creation

God created all things and declared them good. The goodness of God's creation is the true starting point for those seeking to understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Each of us has an important part in taking care of what belongs to the Lord. One of the best ways we can start to do this...or do this better...is by being aware of our natural rhythms throughout a day. Every moment, we are given a choice to transform our minds to be like Jesus Christ, in whom "all things in heaven and on earth were created" (Colossians 1:16). Pray each day for God to continue to open your eyes to new ways of caring for creation.



Here are some things you can try:

1. Keep a 'Daily Nature/Natural Resources Log' Throughout your day, have each family member jot down (on a sheet of paper or small note pad you carry with you) all the natural elements that are a part of your many activities. Keep a "Master Log" in a central location...the kitchen, for example...for everyone to record their results. Examples could be:
 - Taking a shower (water)
 - Using a stove (electricity/gas)
 - Eating spinach or lettuce (plants)
 - Going to the bathroom and washing your hands (water)
2. At the end of the day (try to establish a regular routine/time, if possible), take some time and write down next to every note, one way that you or your family could try to take care of each of the natural elements you wrote down during the day. Feel free to add any elements that you may have missed during the day and discuss them, as well.

Keep the Faith! Study and Grow

In this time of online church and not being physically together, your Adult Disciple Vision Team has put together resources for you to use for daily devotionals, self-studies, and group online studies. There are three for you this week, and we will add suggestions over the next few weeks. Some specific links are included so you can look online and decide if you want to use that resource or try another. We hope you find a resource that meets your needs and is helpful for you whatever your situation is right now. Here are three options:

1. **The Good Gospel** - 6-week individual study, or online group study with Rita Otness starting May 4. See details below.
2. **Mornings with Jesus** - An online devotional by Guideposts.
3. **Right Now Media** - Several wonderful streaming Bible study options (some now free during pandemic), including *Unstuck* or *Amazing Grace* by Francis Chan, or perhaps *Overcoming Anxiety during COVID 19* with Pokluda? Would you be interested in leading a study?

Online Group Bible Study **The Good Gospel**

Rita Varner-Otness will lead **The Good Gospel**, a 6-week online study with daily readings and a weekly one-hour Zoom meeting for discussion. Zoom meetings will be on **Monday evenings from 8-9 p.m.** The class will start **Monday, May 4** with an "intro" group meeting. All readings/questions are online each day for you. You do not need to purchase the book, but you may if you want.

Please contact Rita if you want to join her group or Laurie Schroeder if you have questions or would be interested in leading a devotion or study. Rita's email is healinghands.dc@bwig.net.



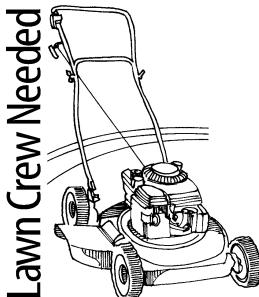
Other Ministry Updates

Ways to Give

The strength of our church grows when each faithful person, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit, shares their talents, spiritual gifts, passions, and wealth for the common good of building up the Body of Christ for ministry to all the world. You and your gifts really do matter! There are many ways to give:

- EFT (automated giving) helps maintain cash flow and can be set up through Patty or using the online link on Facebook or our church website. There is a small fee deducted from your gift, but not as high as credit card giving fees are.
- Mailing in your offerings is also great— send to BUMC at 609 8th St NW, Buffalo 55313
- Use free online banking BillPay.

Give on our website or our Facebook page by clicking on the “give” link. Do remember that credit card giving incurs the highest fees, so we offer that primarily for online guests to use.



Lawn Crew Needed
Spring is here and the grass is growing, in spite of a pandemic! The Property Team is gearing up for lawn mowing and we have saved a lot of money annually by using volunteers to mow May through October. We schedule two households per week to mow. With two people on the riding mowers and one person using the push mower and weed whacker it takes about two and a half hours to mow the church property. (The church has mowers on site that you can use.) We have lost some of our mowing team this year, so would you consider volunteering once or twice this year? Contact Michelle at the church office for more information or to volunteer. Thank you!

Food Shelf Support Available

Remember, the food shelf is open and available for anyone who is feeling food insecure. They are observing physical distancing and welcome any shoppers in need. Distribution times are Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Friday mornings, with senior day on the first Monday of the month in the morning.

Help from Wright County Available

Wright County Public Health has established a Wright County coronavirus hotline for help with food, transportation, medication access, mental health care, or services for seniors. Visit www.co.wright.mn.us/948/Resources or call or text (763) 682-7607. The hotline is monitored Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM for non-emergencies. Call 911 for emergencies.

Prayer Ministries

Please continue praying as the Spirit leads you. Sign up for the prayer chain any time to be part of that ministry. Share your prayer needs via the office email address.

Office Hours—Phone Only

The building is closed but we continue to receive phone calls during regular office hours. You may also email or phone staff members.

This Week in Ministry

April 26	9:00 am Worship on Facebook 10:00 am Sunday School PS-6th 10:00 am Sunday School 7&8 grade
April 28	7:00 pm Finance Team on Zoom
April 29	6:00 pm Confirmation on Zoom 6:00 pm Senior High youth on Zoom
May 3	9:00 am Online Worship