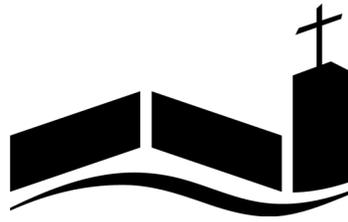


**BUFFALO
UNITED METHODIST**



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection April 3, 2020

Online Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Easter Worship

It's hard to imagine not being together in person for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday worship. Kids singing, waving, palm branches, great music, the smell of Easter lilies! (Which some of our allergic people won't miss quite so much.) We will adapt, try new things and make the best of it as we continue to worship via Facebook Live at **9:00 am each Sunday** morning. Joining in at 9:00 is a great way for you to still feel connected to your church family as you are able to comment online, both during and after the service, as well as see the comments of others. But, if you miss it live, you can watch the video on the BUMC Facebook page or, if you don't have a Facebook account, you can view the video through the link on the church website.

Bring Props to Palm Sunday Worship on April 5!

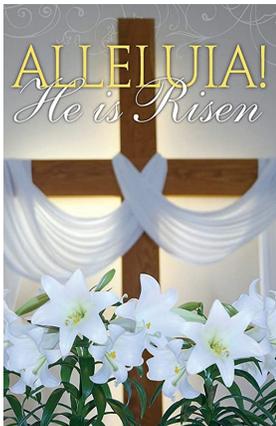
We have to adapt our Palm Sunday worship and communion, but there are still some ways you can actively participate. We invite you to bring some props to worship:

1. You probably don't have a palm branch laying around home, but we want you to join the parade anyway! Find something you can wave—a scarf, hankie or banner of some kind and be ready to sing "Hosanna!"
2. Virtual communion is impossible, but we are going to include "A Feast of Love" in our worship to remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. As part of this feast, we invite you to **prepare and bring your favorite "comfort food!"** Or at least grab a favorite food out of your kitchen.



Holy Thursday Worship April 9 at 7:00 pm Tennebrae in Shadows

We are working on an online Holy Thursday worship service, also on Facebook Live!

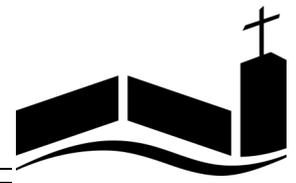


Easter Worship and Virtual Resurrection Garden Tour Sunday, April 12

9:00 am on Facebook Live!

Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook Page

Now more than ever, we need to celebrate Easter Sunday! Let's sing hallelujahs and join our spirits in praising our Resurrected Savior! Hear the message of the promise of new life. We'll share a virtual tour of our Easter Resurrection Garden right before the service begins.



Other Ministry Updates

Easter Offerings and Regular Offerings

With so many being furloughed or fired, and so many retirees dependent on investment income, there is a dark cloud hanging over our economy that has also inspired fear. **But there are signs of the resurrection there, as well. In a nation where wealth inequalities are growing, we see those who have more reaching out in generosity to share with those in need.** BUMC has entered into this time with guarded optimism. While it's too early to know how the economic downturn will impact giving, we have received a three-month relief of our portion of pension and health insurance obligations from the Annual Conference. We have taken measures to reduce building maintenance costs during this time of physical distancing and are carefully monitoring giving as well as discretionary spending. Reducing expenses is always a necessary part of budgeting, but we are depending primarily on your generous giving to weather this time of reinventing church and emerge a stronger, more vibrant expression of the love of Jesus than ever.

Ways to Give

If you are currently giving to the church through our EFT (automated giving) program, thank you. Would you consider making an extra gift this Easter to allow us to stay strong through what we anticipate to be a challenging year ahead? If you are currently mailing in your giving checks, would you do the same, and also consider signing up for our EFT giving? If you are not currently supporting BUMC with your financial gifts, would you consider doing so today? The strength of our church comes through each faithful person in the community, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit, sharing from their abundance of talents, spiritual gifts, passions, and wealth for the common good of building up the Body of Christ for ministry to all the world. In other words, you and your gifts really do matter!

Help from Wright County Available

Wright County Public Health has established several resource listings accessible by the public. For help with things like food, transportation, medication access, mental health care, or services for seniors, visit www.co.wright.mn.us/948/Resources. If you cannot find the information you need, text or call the Wright County coronavirus hotline at (763) 682-7607. The hotline is monitored Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM for non-emergencies. Call 911 for emergencies.

Food Shelves Need Help!

Now more than ever our food shelves need donations and volunteers. Cash donations are greatly appreciated. They will take all donations of food and personal care items, but are especially looking for kid-friendly foods and snacks. Since the church is closed, drop items directly at your local food shelf. Volunteer information to work at the Buffalo Food shelf can be found on their website.

Prayer Ministries

Good news!! Our prayer ministries continue uninterrupted! Please continue to pray as the Spirit leads you, and you may share prayer needs and answered prayer via the office email address, Facebook, or during our Facebook live worship streams. Sign up for the prayer chain any time.

Office Hours—Phone Only

Though the building is now closed, we will continue to receive phone calls during regular office hours. If you wish to reach a staff person, email might be your best option initially as staff continue to work from home.