



*So All May Know Joy*

## **BUMC Weekly Connection—Aug. 16**

**This Sunday, Aug. 18 @ 9:00**

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

### **New Sermon Series—Created for Connection**

Observing the widespread and severe effects of social disconnection on Americans' health, Dr Vivek Murthy (Surgeon General of the United States) says that

“loneliness and isolation represent profound threats to our

health and well-being.” This reality reflects what our faith already teaches us: God created us for

connection and community. Drawing on the experiences of the early church in scripture, let us relearn how God leads us into lives of meaningful relationship with Godself and one another.



### **This Sunday — Connection with Community** | Hebrews 10:23-25

In our loneliness, we often retreat from church and community. We are called, as believers, to prioritize the time for worship and small groups, to encourage each other in the faith.

### **Scripture Reading** | Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### **Next Week — Connection Across Barriers** | Ephesians 2:11-22

Division and barriers can isolate us from one another. Christ, through faith, can break down hostilities and move us into new community and connection with one another.

**Sunday Fellowship** If you'd like an opportunity to get together for coffee and a chat ... let's meet in the Fellowship Hall after the service.



### **Coffee and Worship**

The two best things on Sunday morning are coffee and worship, and so we welcome you to bring your coffee in to the sanctuary. However, in order to preserve our beautiful space, we ask that you bring a covered coffee cup from home when bringing your cup into worship.

### **DID YOU KNOW? Did You Know**

Did you know that BUMC has Children's Activity Bags for children to use during worship? They are located in the entry of the church. Please don't forget to return after use! If you have any new ideas for items in these bags, please reach out to [Andrea@buffaloumc.com](mailto:Andrea@buffaloumc.com).



## Other Ministry Updates

- Aug 18 9:00 am** Worship Service
- 10:00 am** Fellowship
- Aug 20 7:00 pm** SPRC Meeting
- Aug 21 4:00 pm** Reading in the Park
- Aug 18 9:00 am** Worship Service
- 10:00 am** Fellowship

### Sunday School

Please see your email for a 2024-2025 invitation and registration. You can find printed registration forms in the entryway, as well as an online option [HERE](#). We appreciate registration forms no later than **Friday, August 23rd** so we can make sure our teachers and classrooms are ready for each of you!

### Help Teach or Assist with Sunday School!

Do you have any interest in being a SS teacher, substitute or helper this Fall? Pray about this ministry and let [Andrea Gravley](#) know if you feel called to serve as a teacher or classroom helper.

### Nursery Help Wanted

We are looking to expand our nursery staff on Sunday mornings (8:45-10:15). If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact [Andrea Gravley](#).



### Confirmation is Back!

We celebrate the return of the Confirmation program beginning fall 2024. We're planning to pick up where we left off with our two-year program on Wednesday evenings. Families with age appropriate youth should have received an invitation by mail to register for the program. Confirmation orientation is **Wednesday, September 18 at 6:00** for students, parents, Faith partners and teachers.



### BUMC Buffalo Food Shelf Representative

As of **September 1, 2024** BUMC will need a new second parish member to sit on the Buffalo Food Shelf board. Any person who feels inclined should talk to Lori Olson or Martyn Dibben about the role during. Periodic attendance at monthly, quarterly or annual board meetings are required.

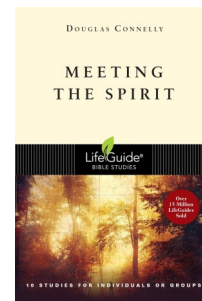
### Reading in the Park

Our Summer Reading will continue one more week on



**Wednesday, August 21 from 9:30 – 10:30 am .**

Thank you for helping making this program such a success!



### Book Study

Starting on **September 10th**, we will be offering a small group study called "Meeting the Spirit". We will meet every **Tuesday from 11 a.m. to approximately 12:15**. We will be using the study guide by Douglas Connelly.

Christians today have certainly heard of the Holy Spirit, but many of us have never encountered the Spirit in a life changing way. This study is intended to help us have that life changing experience. Through this study we will examine key passages of scripture that teach us vital truths about who the Spirit of God is and what He is anxious to do in our lives. Our goal is not simply to gain knowledge about the Holy Spirit, but to translate that knowledge into a deeper relationship with the Spirit of God. We are hoping you will join us on this exciting journey!

### Spirituality in Nature Group (S.I.N.G)

S.I.N.G. is a gathering of people who want to explore our connection to God in Nature. This time we will meet at Bertram Regional Park in the parking lot. If you enjoy meeting new people and love to be in nature, this may be the perfect opportunity for you!



**September 5** - Coming Home 1

**September 19** - Coming Home 2

**October 3** - Autumn: Harvest

**October 17** - Autumn: Harvest

### Secure Giving



### Worship Registration



# 2024 – 2025 S.W.O.T Analysis Instructions

(Identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in BUMC)

Dear Attender: (you do not need to be a member to contribute)

Please carefully read the descriptions of each letter of the SWOT before you begin writing your comments in the blank SWOT handout.

Set aside approximately 30 or 40 minutes to complete the whole SWOT. You might spend only five to eight minutes on each letter.

Please write as clearly as possible and in full sentences to help us understand what you are trying to communicate. Please write your first and last name on the SWOT sheet just in case we can't read your handwriting or have a question.

Please return your completed SWOT form to church no later than our due date of **Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**.

On behalf of the Leadership Team,

Thank you!

Pastor Amy Strom

# 2024 – 2025 S.W.O.T Analysis

(Identifying our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in BUMC)

## Benefits of doing a S.W.O.T

- Good for when need broad analysis, good overview of major points in a church
- Good for a time of re-starting and re-engaging
- Helpful in developing a roadmap for growth and development
- Helps get a team on the same page, focusing and harnessing energy

## Overview of the process

- Invite prayer, discernment, and good conversations during whole process
- Gather key leaders, stakeholders, and decision makers
- Brainstorm and capture data on these 4 areas; the more input the better
- Analyze and summarize the data
- Prioritize the data, asking people to cast their vote to prioritize
- Communicate the findings and invite more prayer
- Invite others to join in tackling the priorities
- Tackle the priorities in teams/sub-teams while still praying
- Continue to communicate priorities/work being done
- Celebrate accomplishments, praise God together

## Descriptions of the letters S, W, O, and T

- **Strengths** are the qualities, capabilities, and competencies that enable the church to successfully accomplish its mission and vision. They may be tangible or intangible. Strengths may also be those unique characteristics that distinguish the church from other churches in the community. These might include leadership competencies, facilities, equipment, financial resources, spiritual resources, reputation, location, services, programs, etc.

To discern strengths, ask:

What advantages does our church have over other churches in our area?

What does our church do better than other churches in our area?

How are we unique from other churches in our area?

How does the community perceive our strengths?

What gifts and skills does our congregation possess?

- **Weaknesses** are the qualities that prevent the church from accomplishing its mission and vision or reaching its full potential. Weaknesses may also be those gaps that place the church at a disadvantage when compared to other churches in the community. These might include factors that don't meet certain standards, staff turnover, governance, location, inefficient systems, ineffective processes, not enough leaders, a lack of prayer, etc.

To discern weaknesses, ask:

What could we improve?

How does the community perceive our weaknesses?

What do other churches in our area do better than us?

What should we avoid doing?

What factors cause us to lose members and first time guests?

Where are we being unbiblical?

- **Opportunities** are the conditions inside and outside the church that if exploited would expand and increase the impact of the church's mission and vision. Sources for opportunities might include changes in church or community demographics, new industries, local events, new technology, changes in government, social change, a new campus, new church members, a new pastor or staff member, etc.

To discern opportunities, ask:

What internal opportunities are we not taking advantage of?

What external opportunities are we not taking advantage of?

What impactful trends are you aware of?

What changes have occurred recently in our church, in our community, in our nation?

Where do we see God working?

- **Threats** are conditions that arise in the environment that threaten the stability and potentially even the survival of the church. These might include changing internal or external demographics, changing technology, the economy, legislation, safety and security, oppressive debt, large capital needs, aging facilities, unwillingness to change, a sense of member entitlement, spiritual immaturity, etc.

To discern threats, ask:

What obstacles does our church face?

What is changing in culture?

What is changing in our community?

What is changing in our key metrics?

Could any of our weaknesses threaten the church?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by Sun, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats