

So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Dec. 16

This Sunday, December 18 @ 9:00 am

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

This Sunday Advent Calendar: Advent Calendar: Waiting for Christmas with Love

The kind of love that describes the real meaning of Christmas is different than so many other views of love expressed in our world. It's a love that is uniquely given by God and expressed by God's people, in which we see the miracle of the birth of Jesus with child-like wonder, give thanks to God, and treat others with love as if every day was Christmas.



Scripture Reading

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

God sent a man, John the Baptist, to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. John 1:1-14 NLT

Christmas Eve (5:00pm)— Waiting for Christmas with Jesus

From one perspective, it seemed like Christmas would never get here. From another perspective, the days leading up to Christmas really flew by quickly. On Christmas eve, we finish our waiting together, having remembered the events leading up to the birth of Jesus, and now allowing ourselves to be amazed that God loves us so much that he sent his son to live among us.



Next Sunday, Christmas Day (10:30am)— Sharing

Christmas An interactive story time for kids, Christmas devotional readings for adults, and plenty of Christmas carols for everyone to celebrate the birth of our Lord!



Other Ministry Updates

- Dec. 18** 9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School Pre-K- 5th gr
10:00 am 6-12th Youth Gathering
10:00 am Fellowship
10:00 am Happy Birthday Jesus Party
- Dec. 20** 7:00 pm SPRC meeting
- Dec. 21** 6:00 pm Youth 6-12 Game Night
6:30 pm Handbell rehearsal
7:30 pm Praise Band rehearsal
- Dec. 24** 5:00 pm Candlelight Service
- Dec. 25** 10:30 am Worship Service
11:30 am Fellowship in the entry way
12:30 pm Caroling
1:00 pm Christmas Day Dinner

2022 Christmas Offering

Our Christmas offering this year will be for Love INC Big Woods. Love INC is a ministry that networks local churches and community organizations together to assist people in need. You can make a gift to Love INC by using one of the special envelopes in the church lobby or sanctuary seat backs, by writing "Love INC" or "Christmas Offering" in the memo line of your check, or by using our secure online giving platform. You'll find a link on our website under "Giving."

Christmas Schedule

Our **5:00 pm Christmas Eve** Candlelight service will be both in person and online. Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor who may be looking for a place to worship. As always, if you're not able to participate in person or via the live stream at **5:00**, you'll find the service posted on YouTube and Facebook shortly afterwards. On **Christmas Day**, we'll worship at a special time at **10:30am** with an interactive story time for kids, Christmas devotional readings for adults, and plenty of Christmas carols for everyone! At **1:00pm** we'll host our **annual Christmas Day Dinner** with caroling at 12:30 pm.

Prayer Labyrinth

The BUMC Labyrinth is closed for the winter. It will open again in Spring - probably late April or early May 2023!

Christmas Day Dinner Invitations

Invite someone to our Christmas Day Dinner who might be alone—pick up invitations in entryway.

Sunday School Mission

In conjunction with the Buffalo Food Shelf, our Sunday School program will be hosting a Birthday Bag drive until **12/18, this Sunday**. We are collecting items such as: cake mix, frosting, sprinkles, cupcake liners, candles, etc to fill bags for individuals/families. A portion of your child's Sunday School offerings will be designated towards this cause. We are looking forward to putting together these bags on **12/18** (or after) when we have our Happy Birthday Jesus celebration. Donations can be placed in the designated box in the entryway!

Happy Birthday, Jesus Party

On Sunday the congregation is invited to join Sunday School families in the fellowship hall after the worship service to have cake and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus!

End of Year Giving Deadline

Please note, all 2022 contributions should be in by Friday, December 30. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving as we end 2022 and look to a new year.

2023 Promise Cards Still Welcome

It's not too late to turn in your promise of giving cards for 2023, both for financial estimate of giving and ministry commitments. We welcome them through the end of the year, but appreciate having them as soon as possible. Not only does it help the church in planning ministry, it also helps you find clarity and joy in your faith walk and spiritual growth.

Coffee and Worship

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

