



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Dec 22

This Sunday, Dec 24 @ 9:00 am

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

Prepare | Sermon Series

Anyone who has hosted a Christmas dinner or party can tell you, there is a ton of preparation that goes into throwing these holiday celebrations. Many of us find ourselves doing lots of preparing in this busy season of lights, tinsel, and wrapping paper. Yet, what are we really preparing for? Who are we really preparing for? This Advent, hear God's call: "Prepare!" – for the coming one, Jesus. Hear this imperative as an invitation to strip away all the fuss and ready your heart and life for the change that is coming when Jesus gets here.



This Sunday – Christmas Eve: Be Courageous | Luke 1:26-38 God invites us to face the unknown with courage, like Mary did.

Scripture Reading

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. Luke 1:26-38 NIV

Next Sunday— Words Have Power! with Curtis Rieck

When we get together and sing songs we think of it as the worship part of the service. It is, and it consists of us speaking out about God, look at the lyrics as we sing, It's "He did this for me and this for me and this for me."

The Bible's covered in stories like this. If you pick up your Bible and page through it it's a lot of the same thing over and over again. God did something awesome...and they all went and told everyone about it.



Other Ministry Updates

- Dec 24** 9:00 am Worship with handbells
 10:00 am Fellowship
 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec 25** 12:30 pm Christmas Carols
 1:00 pm Christmas Day Dinner
- Dec 31** 9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Fellowship

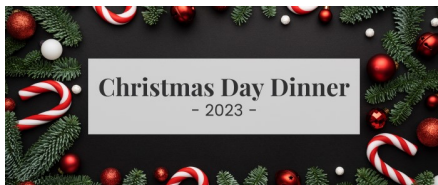
Sparkle Box

Have you noticed others doing kind things or have you done something kind for someone else.? Take a moment to write it down and put it in the Sparkle Box in the entry way. This will be our gift to Jesus on Christmas.



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

We will be having our regular **9:00 am** Worship service and also a **5:00 pm** Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Please consider inviting a friend who may be looking for a place to worship. If you're not able to participate in person, not only will both services be live streamed, you'll also find the service posted on YouTube and Facebook shortly afterwards. On Christmas Day at **1:00pm** we'll host our **annual Christmas Day Dinner** with caroling at **12:30 pm**. Please invite someone who might be alone.



Christmas Day Dinner Help

It's not too late to volunteer for this wonderful

community outreach ministry – our 26th annual dinner!! If you want to help with clean-up, come around **2:30 pm**.

2024 Christmas Offering

This year our Christmas offerings will go to the Emma Norton Residence and the Simpson Housing Services. Emma Norton provides housing and growth for women and families o their journey to recovery and Simpson Housing houses, supports, and advocates for people experiencing homelessness.

2024 Offering Envelopes Available

If you requested offering envelopes for the coming year, they are available in the entryway. If you want envelopes but don't find any with your name on, please write your name down and take a book.

Nursery

The Nursery will not be staffed during Christmas Eve Worship. We encourage you to attend as a family. As always there are activity bags for children to take into service. If you chose to use the nursery you can live stream the service on your phone.

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on Dec 24 & 31.



Take Poinsettias Home

After Sunday's services are over, you are welcome to take home any poinsettias which you donated. Thank

you again for brightening our sanctuary this Christmas season!

"Discover BUMC"

If you are a newcomer and have questions, consider attending the "Discover BUMC" gathering **Sunday, January 14** in the conference room after worship, hosted by our Guest Connections team. You can get acquainted with others and ask questions about the Methodist church or this congregation. All are welcome!



Membership Class January 28

Come learn more about Buffalo UMC and Methodism in general on

Sunday, January 28 at 10:15 am in the conference room. All are welcome whether contemplating membership or not. It's a great chance to get to know some other people, and get information. Those who choose to join following the class will be received as members on **Sunday, February 4** during worship. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call church to let us know you're coming.