



*So All May Know Joy*

## **BUMC Weekly Connection—Dec. 26**

**Worship: Sunday, Dec. 28 @ 9:00am**

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

### **Sermon Series — Sanctuary: Room for All**

“There is no room at the inn” is a phrase we hear each Christmas. We see it in our Christmas pageants, as kids dress up like Mary and Joseph. Providing sanctuary was not only part of the Christmas story but is part of our story as people of faith. This Advent, how do we create space in our lives, our churches, and our communities for Jesus, for those close to us, and for the stranger?



### **This Sunday - Making Room, Refuge and Sanctuary** | Matthew 2:1-18

This postscript to the Christmas story is a painful reminder of the evil and hatred that humans are capable of. While we celebrate the survival of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; we are also challenged to see the ways people still suffer this kind of persecution and violence today. May we all discover how we are called, as agents of the Prince of Peace, to work for a world where there is room for all.

### **Scripture** | Matthew 2:1-5 (NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:”

‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’

### **Next Sunday — Making Room, For Hope In The New Year** | Matthew 1:18-Because

Advent ends too quickly, how can the story of Jesus' birth give us hope as we head into 2026? When Joseph found himself in an impossible situation, an angel of the Lord arrived with hope, making room for a new God-given possibility! How is God making room in the places in our lives that feel impossible and hopeless?



### **Sunday Fellowship**

Join us for coffee with a treat, and great conversation in the Fellowship Hall at **10:00 a.m.** on Sunday mornings.



## Other Ministry Updates

- Dec 28** 9:00 am Worship  
10:00 am Fellowship
- Jan 1** Office Closed
- Jan 4** 9:00 am Contemporary Worship  
Service with Communion & FSS  
Blessing  
10:00 am Sunday School &  
Confirmation  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:30 am Traditional Worship  
Service with Communion

### First Grade Faith Stepping Stone

On **January 4**, we will celebrate the First Grade Faith Stepping Stone. During our first worship service only, first graders will receive a prayer book and a special blessing. Following the service, during Sunday School, Taylor will visit the PK-1st grade classroom to teach a lesson on prayer. First-grade families, please RSVP to [Taylor](#) Ryan so we know your child will be present in worship to receive the blessing.



### Christmas Offering Designation

Though most people bring their Christmas offering to Christmas Eve worship, you are welcome to still give. Special red envelopes are located in the chairs in the sanctuary, and may be placed in the offering plate. Gifts will go to the Buffalo Food Shelf.

### Children

Thank you to all the kids that came to the Happy Birthday to Jesus Party. The kids did a wonderful job making ornaments for foster care homes. Reminder: No Sunday School on **December 28th** due to Christmas break. We will be back to Sunday School on **January 4th**.

### Confirmation

Thank you to all the Confirmation kids that helped at the Happy Birthday to Jesus Party. It was helpful having the help! Reminder no class on **December 28th**. We will be back to class on **January 4th**.

### Youth (9th-12th Grade)

As we approach Christmas break, we will not be having any events for the youth. If parents or kids have ideas on what they would like to do as Youth in the New Year, please reach out to [Taylor Ryan](#) and let her know your ideas!

### Clocks

On behalf of the Worship Design Team, we are seeking a variety of clocks for use in February and March. All sizes and styles are welcome—large, medium, small, wall, alarm, modern, or vintage. They do not need to be functional, but they must have hour and minute hands (please no LED clocks or clock radios). If you can lend or donate one, please contact [Robin Anderson](#).



### Thank You!



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas Day Community Dinner such a blessing. From cooking and baking to serving, decorating, donating, and cleaning up—your generosity and hard work made a real difference. Because of you, we were able to welcome and serve **260** people with a warm meal, joyful fellowship, and the love of Christ. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and hearts with our community.

### Prayer Ministries

Sign up for the prayer chain any time to be part of that ministry. Share your prayer needs via the our [Prayerrequests@buffaloumc.com](mailto:Prayerrequests@buffaloumc.com).

### 2026 Devotionals and Online Resources

UMC daily and weekly devotionals : [Click Here](#)  
**The Upper Room** (Daily devotional): [Click Here](#)  
**Terry Hershey Sabbath Moment** (weekly) [Here](#)  
**Asbury Seedbed** (Daily devotional from JD Walt of Asbury Seminary): [Click Here](#)  
**Insight for Living** (Daily devotionals from Chuck Swindoll) [Click Here](#)  
**Billy Graham Association** (Daily) [Click Here](#)  
**Our Daily Bread** [Click Here](#)



## Other Ministry Updates

### Finance Team Report – November Results

Through November, our year-to-date income minus expenses was at negative \$673. Below is a monthly income/expense comparison chart to more clearly show our financial results so far this year. Apportionments for the first 11 months of 2025 have been paid in full to support the missions of the Minnesota Annual Conference. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving.

#### INCOME/EXPENSE COMPARISON

	2025			
	YTD INCOME	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET YTD
JANUARY	27,058	27,058	27,271	(213)
FEBRUARY	56,031	28,973	24,826	3,934
MARCH	82,288	26,257	26,028	4,163
APRIL	106,570	24,282	23,671	4,774
MAY	125,045	18,475	26,167	(2,918)
JUNE	151,760	26,715	27,700	(3,902)
JULY	174,776	23,016	23,621	(4,507)
AUGUST	205,718	30,942	22,404	4,031
SEPTEMBER	226,280	20,562	28,336	(3,743)
OCTOBER	256,196	29,916	22,520	3,653
NOVEMBER	277,700	21,504	25,830	(673)

### End of Year Giving Deadline

Please note, all 2025 contributions should be in by **Wednesday, December 31**. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving as we end 2025 and look to a new year. Though we are slightly behind currently, we hope to close the year with all our financial obligations met. As we approach the end of the year, please be sure to clearly label offerings if they are intended for 2026 rather than 2025!

### Take Poinsettias Home After Christmas

Thank you again to everyone who donated poinsettias for our sanctuary. Poinsettias may be taken home if you purchased one and want to keep it.

### 2026 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!

### Blankets for Beds

As the temperatures drop and the nights grow longer, many in our community are feeling the chill more than ever. Our local food shelf is currently accepting donations of gently used bedding—including blankets, comforters, sheets, pillowcases and towels—to help families and individuals stay warm this season.



If you have extra bedding at home in good condition, consider sharing it with someone who could use the comfort. Clean, gently used items can make a world of difference for those facing tough times, especially as we move into the coldest months of the year. Donations can be dropped off at the church and placed in the basket near the church office door or call [Dianne McLain](mailto:Dianne McLain) at 763-682-2260. Together, we can bring warmth, comfort, and hope to our neighbors in need.

### Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer concern or a praise you would like to share, we invite you to email it to [prayerrequests@buffaloumc.com](mailto:prayerrequests@buffaloumc.com). Requests will be emailed to our Prayer Chain and shared with our Prayer Team so they can join you in lifting up your needs, concerns, and celebrations unless stated otherwise. All submissions are treated with care and confidentiality as appropriate, and it is a meaningful way to ensure you are supported in prayer by your church community.

### Wrapped in Love



Christmas is a season of giving, love, and generosity. As you are out shopping, please consider purchasing **new** socks and underwear for all. Your donations will help brighten the season for adopted and foster families and share Christ's love in a very practical way.