



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Dec. 17

This Sunday, December 19 @ 9:00 am

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

This Sunday - Prince of Peace

When we hear Isaiah name Jesus our Prince of Peace, we naturally think of the many international and domestic conflicts that rage across the world. If the Prince of Peace has come into the world, why aren't we seeing more peace? But Jesus doesn't bring peace the way the world does, and all lasting peace begins with making peace with God.



Sunday Scripture

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) Ephesians 2:1-10 (NLT)



Christmas Eve— Immanuel

Is “God be with you” little more than a polite expression of caring, or is it a profound acknowledgement that God is in fact with us? Christmas marks a pivotal moment in salvation history, when the creator of all things stepped into creation to demonstrate the extent of God's love for us. God is still “with us,” offering us everything we need to enjoy the peace, love, hope, and joy that come from being in the presence of God.

Next Sunday — Bunch of Whiners!

Curtis Rieck will share: What if this became our mindset for the entire next year, instead of arguing about masks or who's going to get a shot? Instead of becoming stressed out over budgets and judging other people over silly things like politics. What if we all realized and thanked God for just how well off we really are? Think about it, there's never been a tear you've ever shed that God didn't feel with you. There's never been a moment of positive or negative that He hasn't gone through with you. There's never been a prayer you've ever prayed where God hasn't heard every single word. Please, can we, especially in the church of Jesus Christ, stop complaining about everything and just live like people of faith!





Other Ministry Updates

Coming Up in Ministry

- Dec 19** 9:00 am Worship Service
 10:00 am Happy Birthday Jesus Party
 10:00 am Fellowship
- Dec 21** 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting
- Dec 24** 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 26** 9:00 am Worship Service with Curtis Rieck
 10:00 am Fellowship

Happy Birthday Jesus!

This **Sunday**, you're invited to join our Sunday School students after church for birthday cake in the fellowship hall as we sing happy birthday to Jesus. In celebration please bring your favorite birthday or after school snack to donate to the Buffalo Food Shelf. Look for the green box in the entry way.

Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us for Christmas Eve worship this year at **5:00pm**. We'll hear the Christmas Story, sing some of your favorite Christmas Carols, and share the light of Christ by candlelight as we sing Silent Night.



Ornament Kits Available

To help celebrate the Advent season, Robin Anderson has made simple ornament construction kits for you to take home, each one including the names of Jesus that we'll be studying each week in worship. The kits for "Prince of Peace" will be in the lobby for you this Sunday. You'll find new kits there on each Sunday of Advent.



2022 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 we'll get some for you!

No Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on December 26th and January 2nd.

Commodities Ministry Coordinator Needed

BUMC is in need of a new champion for the commodities ministry (Second Harvest Heartland). Distribution of food boxes is the first Monday of each month from 9-10am at our church. The coordinator meets the truck at BUMC around 7:30am and is done by 11:00am. Some paperwork required. Requires about 5-6 hours per month of time and ability for someone on the team to deliver some of the boxes locally (although most boxes are picked up at BUMC). There are three volunteers currently helping with the distribution. Boxes weigh 30 lbs. each. Call Gail Hurley for more information (612-559-9659).



Christmas Offering

For our Christmas Offering this year you'll have a choice of making a gift to one or both of two different missions: **Common**



Hope and **Minnesota Teen Challenge**. **Common Hope** works to end the cycle of poverty for children in Guatemala. **Minnesota Teen Challenge** assists adults and teens in gaining freedom from chemical addictions and other life controlling problems. Please consider making a special gift out of gratitude for all that you have received from the Lord this year. Simply indicate on your check or envelop which combination of giving you'd prefer: Common Hope and/or MN Teen Challenge. Undesignated gifts will be contributed to the General Fund, unless they are received in one of the special envelopes, in which case the offering will be split between Common Hope and Adult & Teen Challenge.

Secure Giving



Worship Registration





Other Ministry Updates

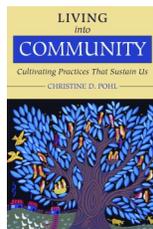
End of Year Giving Deadline

Please note, all 2021 contributions should be in by **Friday, December 31**. Thank you in advance for your faithful giving as we end 2021 and look to a new year.

What Are You Reading?

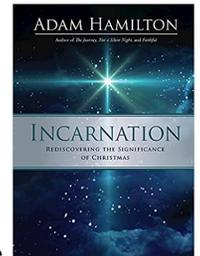
The Adult Disciple Vision Team has asked BUMC members to submit reviews of what they are presently reading, watching, or studying. In upcoming months, you will see a review and we are hoping that this will inspire you to also pick up the book, watch the movie, or engage in the devotional that is being reviewed. Please feel free to speak with the person who submitted the review. Also, if you would like to submit a review please send it to Rita at ritaraevo@gmail.com as we welcome more participation.

Pastor Bill writes the following review of *Living into Community* by Christine Pohl. *As I've reflected on what's most important to me in life, and what's most been disrupted by the pandemic, it community; the community of our church, our families, our work places, and others. I recently picked up this book at the recommendation of my District Superintendent. It's not a new book, but it speaks deeply to our created need to be in life-affirming community. The main idea here is that Christian communities can be more joyful by intentionally embracing the community practices of gratitude, promise-keeping, truth-telling, and hospitality. One of the things I especially appreciate about the book is that it not only discusses the Biblical witness on these practices, but is also speaks to both the opposites of each practice and some specific examples of how to strengthen our practices. For example, envy is antithetical to gratitude, but it can be countered by deepening our awareness of the gifts we already have. I'll be preaching on Community in January and making use of this book. If you're interested in reading more deeply, the book will be available for purchase in the church lobby for \$12.00 Christmas Eve.*



Thursday Noon Advent Study

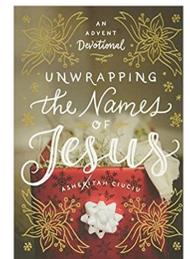
We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Thursdays in December from 12pm to 1pm** to discuss *Incarnation - Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, by Adam Hamilton. Each session will include a short video and discussion of a section of the book. There is a sign-up on the church bulletin board. Books are available for \$10.00. Bring your lunch if you like! Please plan to wear a mask when not eating.



- December 23: The Light of the World

Why Celebrate Advent?

This Advent season Pastor Bill is devoting his sermon messages to the names of Jesus. We have chosen a companion Advent devotional titled, *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus*. Following is a review of this devotional. The books are available at church on the entry bulletin board. The cost of the book is \$9.50.



Most Christians agree that Christmas is all about Jesus, yet most of us spend little time preparing our hearts to celebrate Him. In *Unwrapping the Names of Jesus*, the author, Asheritah Ciuciu, leads readers through the four weeks of Advent (Hope, Preparation, Joy, and Love). Each week begins with an interactive family devotional that equips readers to celebrate Advent together. It offers five daily reflections that focus on that week's name of Jesus. And included are suggestions for fun-filled family activities or service projects. This devotional can be used by readers in their own personal worship times or as a tool to engage in family worship during the busy holiday season. Participants will gain a greater sense of awe and wonder at who Jesus is. By focusing on the person and character of Jesus throughout the Advent season, readers will prepare their hearts so that when they admire the live nativity, sit in the candlelight service, or wake up on Christmas morning, they can join the faithful who sing from the bottom of their hearts, "O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"