



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Dec. 24

This Sunday, December 26 @ 9:00 am

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

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.



This 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!

Living into Community: January 2-January 23

Every church, every organization, has experienced them: betrayal, deception, grumbling, envy, exclusion. They make life together difficult and prevent us from developing the skills, virtues, and practices we need to nurture sturdy, life-giving communities. In this series, we’ll explore four specific Christian practices -- gratitude, promise-keeping, truth-telling, and hospitality -- that can counteract those destructive forces and help us build and sustain vibrant communities.



Living into Community

Cultivating Practices That Sustain Us

Embracing Gratitude

as a way of life



Next Sunday — Embracing Gratitude as a Way of Life

We begin with the practice of gratitude because the Christian life is most of all a response to the grace we have received. Christian community begins in gratitude, is sustained by our promises and truthfulness, and is expressed in hospitality. The grace to which we respond is expressed in God's welcome to us.



Other Ministry Updates

Coming Up in Ministry

- Dec 24 5:00 pm** Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 26 9:00 am** Worship Service with Curtis Rieck
- 10:00 am** Fellowship
- Dec 27 1:00 pm** Prayer Shawl
- Dec 28 7:00 pm** Finance Meeting
- Jan 2 9:00 am** Worship Service with Communion
- 10:00 am** Fellowship

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. Please feel free to take home your poinsettia's after the service. There is a list on the bulletin board if you have forgotten which one you ordered.

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 Minnesota Teen Challenge.



"The Event" for Grades 7-12

We will be attending The Event at St Cloud First UMC on



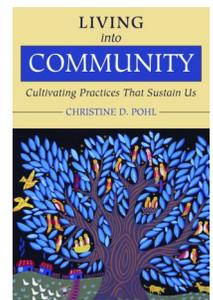
January 15m 1-6pm. Registration for the day is \$20, and we'll do the registration for you as a single church. You will receive a registration form by mail. Please return it by **Sunday, January 9**. Scholarships are available, if needed.

Plan for a great day that includes: a service project to support local mission partners, a Murder Mystery/Life Size Game of Clue, an excellent message and a hip hop concert featuring Kaboose (from The Event 2019).

What Are You Reading?

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.



Secure Giving



Worship Registration

