



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Feb 9

This Sunday, Feb 11 @ 9:00 am

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

This Sunday — Reset Direction

Whether we've been in the church for a long time or are exploring the faith, Jesus sometimes calls us to move in a new direction, even when we think we are already heading in the right direction.

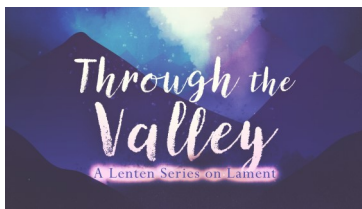


Scripture Reading | Acts 9:1-15

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.



New Sermon Series—Through the Valley: A Lenten Series

Just as Jesus wandered in the wilderness for forty days, so too can we feel like we are wandering in the wilderness, as we face hardships, grief, temptations, and injustices. This Lent, we will discover what it means to wander these parts of life in honesty with God through the practice of lament. We will learn how crying out to God in our need can help us to fully embrace what it means to be human beings held and loved by a God we can trust. We will learn that even through the darkest valleys, Jesus both goes ahead of us and walks with us.

Next Week —

2.14.24 Ash Wednesday: Lament and Repentance | Psalm 51:10-17

Some of our deepest troubles can come from within us. As we bring them to God, we can grieve and turn from our sins with readiness to receive God's ever-present grace.

2.18.24 : Honestly Facing Our Humanity | Psalm 13

In Lent, lament invites us to face our humanity. Lament is a natural part of our faithful, loving response to a world marked by sin and brokenness.



Other Ministry Updates

- Feb 11** 9:00 am Worship with Handbells
 10:00 am Fellowship
 10:00 am Education Hour
 10:00 am Soup-er Bowl Soup Sale
- Feb 13** 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting
- Feb 14** 6:00 pm Lenten Meal
 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service
 6:30 pm Lenten Series for kids
- Feb 18** 9:00 am Worship
 10:00 am Fellowship
 10:30 am Chili Cook-off

It's Chili Cook Off Time!!

Since we live in MN we know winters can be cold!! But, one thing heats things up every year and that's our chili cook off! Next Sunday, **Feb 18th** is the day so mark your calendars, get your recipes ready, and get excited to eat some amazing chili! Tasters are needed so please plan to stay and be our judges after fellowship!

Ottie Otness Memorial Blood Drive

Buffalo United Methodist Church will host a Red Cross Blood drive on **February 29th from 10AM**

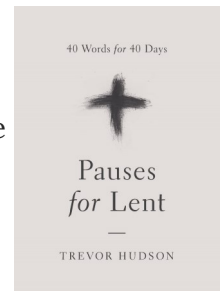
 **to 4PM.** There is currently a critical need for

blood. Donating at this drive will help supply blood for accident victims, surgical patients and others for whom blood transfusions can be life saving. To make an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or if preferred, you can call 1-800- 733-2767 and request a blood donation appointment for the Buffalo blood drive on **February 29th.** Walk-ins are welcome, however, waiting times will vary as these donations will be worked in as time permits. Each donor will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift card through their e-mail within 6 weeks after donation.

We are also in need of volunteers and are looking for people who will sit at the registration table or help at the canteen with refreshments for the donors. We are asking for 2-hour commitments. If you would like to help with registration, some basic computer knowledge is necessary. Please let Rita Varner-Otness know if you are willing to help at this event at 763-682-5256 or ritaraevo@gmail.com.

Lent Series

Lent is right around the corner and we will start with Ash **Wednesday on Feb 14** – which is also Valentine's day. In worship we'll receive the mark of the cross in ashes on our bodies as a sign of mourning our sins, our mortality, and our great need for Christ's redemption. We will be having Wed. night services again, with a congregational supper at **6:00** and then a short service from **6:35-7:15-ish**. The book we will be reading from is called *Pauses for Lent – 40 Words for 40 Days*. We will have them available for sale for \$10 starting next Sunday. Join us each Wed as we hear readings, reflect on our journey, and sing our way to the cross.



While the adults are in the sanctuary, Children's Ministry will continue our tradition of hosting a Lenten Series for kids and youth ages 3+. Andrea Gravley is busy planning some awesome activities to help our kids experience the walk to the cross as well. She is looking for an additional adult or high school **volunteer** each **Wednesday** evening from approximately **6:30 - 7:15pm**. If you can help, please sign up! Feel free to reach out to [Andrea](#) directly with any questions!

Two Worship Services

Starting in March, we will be having a second service on the first Sunday of each month through May. This means we will be having a contemporary service at **9:00 am** and a traditional service at **10:30 am**. The summer will go back to one service and then we will reassess for the fall. More details will be coming soon.

Soup-er Bowl!

This Sunday is Soup-er Bowl Sunday, so stop by and grab some turkey noodle, split pea with ham or mashed potato soup for \$5.00 to take home. This is a Meals & Missions fundraiser to support our mission events. Thank you for your support!





Other Ministry Updates

Thank you from the Rotary

Rotary



"Thank you so much for helping us with the space to serve 160 families totaling 400 children.

We couldn't do this without you and opening your doors to the community and the Rotary to help us make these connections to people in need. We have a great set-up with your building so thank you again for letting us use it."—Buffalo Rotary Adopt-A-Family Committee.

Prayer Shawl

In January of 2007

Arlene Nelson invited people to join her in a Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Anyone who could knit and/or crochet started gathering on the 4th Monday of the month and are still gathering to this day. Over the years 523 Prayer Shawls have been handed out to members of our church as well as to others in the community. In addition to making the Prayer Shawls, this group makes scarves, hats and baby blankets to give to the Food Shelf. It is a very informal gathering so please consider joining them in this ministry. The next meeting is **Monday, February 26 at 1:00.**



Apportionments for 2024

We are fortunate to be part of a connectional church, and apportionments are the local financial commitment we make to the greater United Methodist Church. This amount is calculated by the conference using a formula based primarily on operating budget, and slightly on membership numbers. These funds support administration, pensions, mission infrastructures, ministry training and so much more! The total amount BUMC is asked to pay for 2024 is \$36,082, which works out to \$139.00 per member. Some people feel good about paying that amount up front in addition to their regular giving; others consider it to be a part of their regular pledge. Either way, we want you to be aware that as a member of this congregation, \$139.00 is sent on to the conference on your behalf out of our general fund.

Summer Camp

Summer 2024 camp registration is open! Don't forget about the Early Bird incentive. Register before April 30 and receive a \$25 Camp Store Credit. Save even more by bringing a friend with you to camp. Click [HERE](#) for details. All BUMC youth who register for a UMC camp this summer will receive 50% off tuition, as well as all 1st-time adults. You will find additional information in the front entry.



Help Make Our Easter Garden Happen



Our beautiful, Easter Resurrection Garden on **March 31** only happens with your generous donation of flowers! Your flower or cash donation may

be given in honor or in memory of someone if you wish. Flowers will be available for pick up after the service on **April 7**. Ordering instructions will follow next week.

Fifth & Sixth Grade Faith Stepping Stone

Our Communion Faith Stepping Stone class is **February 25 at 10am** and **March 3** in worship. Our fifth & sixth graders will learn about communion and bake the bread that we will serve in worship. On **Sunday, March 3** they will help serve communion, and we will offer a blessing over them. As part of their Faith Stepping Stone, they also receive an additional \$100 gift toward UM church camp registration.



Secure Giving



Worship Registration

