



The Joy Connection

February 2018

A monthly publication of Buffalo United Methodist Church

Worship Events

Sunday, February 4

Life Beyond Belief:

Beyond Fear

Luke 12:4-8-12

Holy Communion

Ministry of the Month:

BUMPreschool

Sunday, February 11

Live Like You're Dying

Luke 4:38-42

Acts 10:24-27

Curtis Rieck Preaching

Ash Wednesday

Wed., Feb. 14; 6:30 pm

Our Need for God's Love

Sunday, February 18

Seven Questions: Can I

Withstand Temptation?

Matthew 4:1-11

1 Corinth. 10:1, 5-6, 10-14

Sunday, February 25

Seven Questions:

Can I Let Jesus Make Me

Uncomfortable?

John 3:1-18

Sunday Schedule

Joyful Praise Worship

8:15 am

Education & Fellowship Hour

9:20-10:20 am

Celebration Worship

10:30 am

Surprise the World!

Every one of us is called to share the Good News with a hurting and lost world, but most of us don't even know where to begin, and certainly don't see ourselves as "evangelists." So we tend to avoid the concept altogether.

But what if it didn't have to be that way? What if there was a way for each one of us to be the person God created and gifted us to be, growing in the energy, passion, skill, and intentionality with which we share Jesus with other people? What if we reconsidered (and truly simplified) what it means to reach out to others?

The season of Lent begins on February 14, Ash Wednesday (and yes, that's also Valentine's Day). That evening we'll have our regular Ash Wednesday worship with the dispensation of ashes and time for reflection. Then on the following five Wednesdays (February 21-March 21), all children through adults are called to participate in a study called "Surprise the World! The Five Habits of Highly Missional People." Our Bishop and his Cabinet have challenged churches to participate in this study, based on a little paperback book that is approachable and practical, centering on the development of five simple habits that each of us can learn that will unleash our heart for sharing Jesus, without requiring us to be someone we're not. I love it!

The heart of "Surprise the World" is the BELLS acronym, which stands for BLESS three people each week, EAT with three people each week, LISTEN to the Holy Spirit, LEARN about Jesus, and understand yourselves as being SENT by Jesus. Each week we'll gather for a meal together on Wednesday night at 6:00 and a brief time together in the sanctuary at 6:30. From there, leaders from the congregation will lead us in small group discussions and a specific weekly challenge.

I hope you'll join us in taking the BELLS journey this year for Lent. Be looking for the book in the lobby. We are currently recruiting small group discussion leaders and hope to be able to offer this study on other days and times beyond Wednesday evenings. Imagine what might happen if each of us resolved to surprise the world each week in these simple ways! Come Holy Spirit, come!

Blessings,
Pastor Bill

✠ Spiritual Growth

Lent Begins February 14

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent, the 40-day preparation period for Easter (not including Sundays).

This year it happens to fall on **February 14** (which is also of course, Valentine's Day.) In worship that evening we will receive ashes on our bodies as a sign of mourning for our sins, a sign of our mortality, and a sign of our great need for the saving work of Jesus. Worship begins at 6:30 pm, and is preceded by a congregational supper at 6:00 pm. This service is always a powerful way to begin our Lenten journey.



Wednesday Evening Lenten Sessions

After Ash Wednesday, the following five Wednesday evening Lent sessions beginning on February 21 will be based on a book, recommended by the Bishop and Rev. Cindy Gregorson of the Cabinet, called "Surprise the World." Please participate in this journey with us! It's a very different approach to Lent because while some of the study is introspective, much of the focus will be outward as we also seek ways to bless others.

Here are the plans and schedule for Lenten Wednesdays, which are February 21 & 28 and March 7, 14, & 21:

- **Supper** is served at 6 pm each Wednesday during Lent. A freewill offering will support the ministries hosting the supper. (See the article in this newsletter for details.)
- **Surprise the World sessions** begin in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm with discussion and small group sessions to follow until 7:30 pm. Books are available now if you wish to begin reading, though it's not required for participation. **Sign up** in early February for a small group, or just join us each week and plug in!
- Confirmation students and senior high youth will participate together in sessions.
- **We will have separate Children's Lent classes** for grades K-6 again this year, following some of the same themes as the rest of us.

Women's Retreat April 20-22

Brochures will be out soon for the Women's Retreat, planned by our Adult Discipleship Vision Team! Mark your calendar!

April 20-22, 2018

Bug Bee Hive Resort, Paynesville, MN

Cost: \$100

Live Wholeheartedly in Christ - Changing our Physical DNA, Soul's DNA & Spiritual DNA is the theme for the weekend. Our speaker will be Kristine Christensen, a Christian nutritionist and personal trainer who believes we thrive when our spirit, soul and body are all in balance. We'll also have a mix of workshops and activities led by some of our own folks. Please join us for the weekend! There are limited spots, so sign up early, though the deadline is March 15. Call Tracy Daleiden 763-238-4220 with questions or to be on the committee to help organize the weekend call Tracy 763-238-4220.

Worship

Upcoming Worship Events

- Feb. 4** **Holy Communion;** SS kids PS-1st grade sing at late service with BUMP
- Feb. 11** **Curtis Riecks preaching;** Kids Sing in Worship (grades 2-6)
- Feb. 18** **New Lent Worship Series Begins – Seven Questions**
- Feb. 25** Jesus Rocks youth sing in church

Friendly Reminder...

We've been asked to encourage you to limit the use of scents and perfumes when coming to church. We have some people with health issues who are very sensitive to them and it can create challenges. Thank you for your consideration!

Worship Attendance

	Early	Late	Total
December 31	60	35	95
January 7	115	54	169
January 14	118	54	172
January 21	104	59	163

♥ *Ministry & Missions*

Meals on Wheels in February

Don't forget that February is our month to provide drivers for Meals on Wheels delivery in Buffalo! We need three drivers every day, and the meals are now picked up at the Senior Center in Buffalo at 11:30 am, Monday-Friday only. There are no weekend deliveries. Please check your calendar and sign up at church if you can help out. this month in the entryway.



New Caring Ministry – Life Happens!

When **Life Happens!** What do you say? Sometimes when people experience difficult circumstances, we may end up saying the wrong thing. Other times we are a true blessing. Or how many times do we say nothing at all and avoid the topic altogether?

Life Happens is a new monthly ministry session where we will bring in guest speakers to share first-hand experiences on topics we all too often avoid, even though we care. You are invited to join us on the **2nd Monday of each month from 7:15-8:15 pm**. We'll meet in the fellowship hall for a time of listening, learning, caring, and dessert. Come occasionally or every month, and bring a friend if you wish.

February Life Happens: Panic Attacks

Miscarriage – What do I say? How can I help?
Monday, February 12, 2018
7:15-8:15 p.m.

The March date and topic is:

March 12 - Bankruptcy

Other potential topics are divorce, loss of a child, stage IV diagnosis, infertility, and more. If you have any questions, topic ideas, or want to help with this ministry, contact Bonnie Kelly or Dave and Tammy Jacobs.

Soup Fundraiser February 4

This Soup-er Bowl Sunday, February 4 our youth are selling frozen soup as a fundraiser that you can take home and add to your game day menu, or stick it in your freezer for a quick meal later on! Support our youth mission trip, and get some delicious soup or chili at the same time!

Men's "Fix It" Crew Can Help!

Have you been 'at a loss' trying to fix something, install something or move something heavy in your home? Our Men's Fellowship would like to remind you that we have several men who are available at no cost to assist you if you are unable to do the work yourself. Call Craig at 763-682-1994 if you could use some help.

Frozen Meals Available

Thanks to our meal cooking and assembly crew, we now have ravioli lasagna frozen and available for you to deliver to someone in need of a helping meal. Who could you bless with the gift of a meal?

Blankets for Beds

Brrr...the cold weather is upon us. It's a great time to clean out your closets and donate gently used blankets, bedding and towels for local distribution. Or perhaps for the holiday season, you'd like to buy some items to donate. If you need items to be picked up, please contact Dianne McLain at 763-682-2260.



Support Ministry at Lenten Dinners

Come enjoy dinner each Wednesday in Lent from 6:00-6:30 pm before our Lenten studies. Each week a different ministry team serves a delicious meal. Your freewill offerings will support the ministries and missions of the groups preparing the weekly meal. The first one is on Ash Wednesday, **February 14** with the UMW's Baked Potato Bar. The following weeks are:

Feb 21	Chancel Chimes
Feb 28	BUMPreschool
March 7	UEC
March 14	Youth
March 21	UMM

“Discover BUMC” March 11

The Guest Connections team has begun hosting periodic informal gatherings for visitors or newcomers to BUMC. The next “Discover BUMC” gathering is on **Sunday, March 11 at 9:20 am** between services in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and discover more about our church, get acquainted with others, and be able to ask questions. Find the designated table in the fellowship hall!

Small Group Leaders Sought for Lent

Our five Wednesday evening sessions during Lent (February 21-March 21) are based on the book *Surprise the World!* Each week will include some short small group discussions, and we are looking for leaders to facilitate. All materials will be provided, along with a set of questions you can choose from. The timeframe is 45 minutes or less. Please let us know if you would consider being a small group leader. Talk with Rita Varner-Otness or Laurie Schroeder ASAP. We’d like to have leaders in place by February 4.

Servant Opportunities

There are many upcoming opportunities to help with ministries or administration here at church. If you are willing, please contact Laurie and she will connect you with the appropriate ministry leaders.

- Help deliver **Meals on Wheels** M-F
- Help plan the **Women’s Retreat** that takes place April 20-22
- Help at the **Ash Wednesday** service on February 14 as a reader, usher, or set-up person
- Help **install new plastic card racks** in the pews for pens and attendance cards.
- Help in the office with **database transfer** entry and cross checking
- Serve on the **property team** for 2018 (or longer); there are two open spots
- Help at the **Saturday Awakenings** concert on February 24, either in the kitchen or as a greeter
- Serve as an “Ask Me” greeter on Sunday mornings.

Coffee Hour Offerings

Please continue to support our church budget and Guatemalan coffee farmers and their families as you’re able, by finding the coffee hour fellowship basket on the side counter each Sunday. Thank you!

Food Shelf Donations

Fill the red wagon for the food shelf! Any food or toiletry items are welcome, so check your cupboards for extras of any item. Monetary donations are also welcome (label “food shelf” in memo of the check). March is Food Share month, so we hope to collect many donations this February and March.

Love INC Needs Your Help

If you are looking for a new volunteer opportunity in 2018, Love INC-Big Woods can assist you! We have a variety of ways you can help out – either on a regularly scheduled basis or a flexible schedule of your choosing. This can be done as an individual, a family or a small group. Our current volunteer needs include: Intake phone worker, transportation help, furniture delivery, Thrift store sorters, merchandisers, cashiers, people to do minor household or car repair and event planners for fundraisers. Call 763-682-2550 for more information. Be a part of what God is doing in our community!

Fun & Fellowship

Jumpin’ Jehosafats!

Saturday

February 24, 7 pm



Come enjoy a truly joyous evening with Jumpin’ Jehosafats! on February 24. This group of mostly UM pastors, believes that God wants us to make a joyful noise, and they bring that in the form of Dixieland, gospel and jazz music that will have you tapping your toes and clapping your hands! Please join us and invite a friend or two along. Refreshments follow; freewill offering received.

Children's Ministries & Sunday School

Sunday School Update

Matthew shares the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish. The story illustrates that all things are possible with God. Trusting that the Lord is able and willing to meet all of your needs is a core value, yet sometimes difficult concept to grasp. How did he feed so many with so little?



As the children in Sunday school learn these fundamental lessons, we need to take it to the next step with real world applications. February is BUMC's month for Meals on Wheels. Have you and your children delivered a warm meal to someone who is overwhelmingly gracious? There are several active food shelves in Wright County. Has your family donated or volunteered your time? What other ministries can you participate with in church or the community? Our neighbors who utilize such services are trusting that God will be able to help them. Your participation is helping God provide all things possible.

While it is important to "learn the lesson" in Sunday school, it is vital to help our youth understand how the "lesson" works in the real world. Thank you for bringing your child to Sunday school every week! Here are our themes for each Sunday of February.

- Feb. 4 - The Sermon on the Mount
- Feb 11 - Jesus Heals the Sick
- Feb 18 - Feeding the 5000
- Feb 25 - Jesus Walks on Water/Calms the Storm

Sunday School Calendar

- Feb 4** 3 years through 1st grade sing with BUMP kids at late service
- Feb. 4** Jesus Rocks rehearsal
- Feb 11** 2nd -6th graders sing at both services
- Feb. 14** Ash Wednesday children's session
- Feb. 18** Jesus Rocks rehearsal
- Feb. 21** (Wed.) Children's Lenten class "Surprise the World" – Bless others
- Feb 25** Jesus Rocks team sings at both
- Feb. 28** (Wed.) Children's Lenten class "Surprise the World" – Eat with others

Children's Lenten Classes

Make Wednesday nights in Lent family nights! Come eat supper as a family at 6:00 (no need to cook!) and then Lenten classes for K-6th graders will be held simultaneously with the adult sessions in the sanctuary **starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14** through March 21.

In addition to helping kids understand Jesus' ministry with his disciples, the parade in Jerusalem, the Good Friday story, and Easter resurrection, the children will learn how to "Surprise the World" along with the rest of the congregation. You and your kids can truly grow in faith this Lent!!

Summer Camp Funds Available!

The Easter offering will again be used to pay for half of camping fees so our children and youth can experience a UM camp without financial strain, as fees can seem overwhelming. All children and youth attending Methodist camps will have half of the registration cost covered by BUMC. This is also a great way for us to support our UM camping programs at the same time!



Pick up a camping brochure at church or go online to <https://minnesotaumc.org/get-involved/camping-retreats/> to register for the camp of your choice. Then complete our BUMC camping form and return it to church so we can pay the other half. First-time adult campers at UM camps also qualify.

Confirmation

Confirmation Schedule

Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm unless indicated

- Feb 7** **Focus Night** – Hard Sayings of Jesus
- Feb 14** **Ash Wednesday Supper @ 6 pm,**
Worship at 6:30 pm
- Feb 28** **Lent Ash Wednesday Supper @ 6 pm,**
Worship at 6:30 pm

Confirmation Wednesdays in Lent

Confirmation students are required to attend Wednesdays in Lent starting **February 14**. Come enjoy family supper at 6:00 pm, then from 6:30-7:30 students will join with senior high youth in this year's "Surprise the World" discussions. Students will have written assignments to complete.

Ministry Team Reports

New Church Database Transition

The church is switching database systems to a much less costly and more user-friendly database, which should still meet all of our needs. As always, however, transitions can be painful! As we switch over we are trying to carefully check that our system is accurate before sending emails or creating mailings, but we are certain that some things are going to be missed. PLEASE let us know if suddenly you stop receiving emails from us that you regularly get, or report any errors you notice. We ask your help and patience as we make a final transition in February.

Welcome Hanover UMC Members

By now you may have heard that Hanover UMC closed its doors this past summer after many faithful and fruitful years of ministry. Recently, we were asked by District Superintendent Susan Nienaber to welcome into membership at BUMC approximately 16 members of the Hanover UMC who are either worshipping with us now or have not yet made a decision where they will worship in the future. BUMC also received a gift from Hanover UMC in the amount of \$5,000. Those who have worshipped here include Stan and Myrna Berglund and Don and Lois Mahler. Another individual, Noel Decambalazia, is now a full-time resident of Texas, but has chosen to join our church!

Please welcome these new brothers and sisters and continue praying for those former members of Hanover UMC who are looking for a new church family.

Finance Team Report

by Dexter Lehman

The beginning of a new year provides an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and look forward to what lies ahead. In the life of our church, 2017 was a year of new beginnings. After our MCCI weekend several teams were assembled and those teams have worked faithfully to come up with ideas to help guide us into the future.

Financially we struggled at different points throughout the past year. We finished the year with expenses exceeding our income by about \$9,600. Fortunately we have a general fund reserve that we were able to use to help us finish out the year. The general fund reserve balance stands at about \$30,000 as we begin 2018.

We had an unexpected blessing at the end of the year when BUMC was gifted a fairly large amount of money from the Willis Mellin estate, which will be used to fund special projects rather than general fund cash flow. We all owe a special thanks to Willis for thinking of us and including BUMC in his will. We can look forward to the coming year with optimism knowing that God will be with us every step of the way.

MCCI Funding Update

As indicated above, we received a gift of money at the end of the year from the Willis Mellin estate. The exciting news is that this gift has allowed us to fund 100% of our planned spending on MCCI ministries, and will support other new ministries that arise this year. God has provided for us abundantly and allowed us to continue to launch breakthrough ministries without needing to increase our annual church budget. If you are a leader of a new ministry team or simply someone with a new ministry idea, requests for funding from the New Ministries account can be made to Pam Sieberg or any other member of the Leadership Team.

New Carpet Matching Grant - Let's "Get 'er Done!"

We're hoping that February will mark the conclusion of our fundraising effort to complete the new carpet in the fellowship hall, conference room, and youth hallway. In addition to the \$2,205 currently in the Carpet Fund, the Willis Mellin estate is providing a matching grant of up to \$4,000 for every dollar contributed to the carpet fund in the month of February. The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$10,000.

Bishop Calls Us to “Reach!”

The Bishop has invited us to join him at a special event called “Reach! New People, New Places, New Passion,” to be held in Sioux Falls October 5-6. This will be a unique chance to learn from some of the leading women and men in innovative ways to recapture our passion for the mission of reaching people with the love of Jesus.

The timing of this event couldn’t be better, as we continue to reinvigorate our outreach to new people and pray for God to continue to break through in new ways. The MN Annual Conference is considering arranging transportation via coach buses. More details to follow. Interested? Speak with Pastor Bill.

Sanctuary Sound System Upgrade

Our sanctuary’s sound system has not had any significant work done on it for more than 20 years, and now parts are beginning to fail. Also a change in FCC regulations is forcing replacement of our three wireless microphones. Thus a team is gathering estimates for system upgrades, and also working on fund-raising plans, which will begin in earnest after Easter based on the Finance Team’s guidance.

A primary fund raising event is a two-day worship concert on Saturday evening, April 14 & Sunday afternoon, April 15 led by musicians from our congregation. The leadership team has set aside \$10,000 from the Willis Mellis estate benevolence to use as matching funds toward this project, as well.



Our Church Family

Review Us on Google

We recently updated our Google listing for the church and we’re hoping that you might take a minute to go online and write a review of BUMC!



Prayer Matters...

- Please keep Nancy and Earl (Doc) Campbell in your prayers as Earl has just been admitted to a facility for Alzheimers in AZ.
- Pray for Jace Masteller, son of Jason & Angie, who has been diagnosed with SJIA (Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis) following hospitalization and has a long road to recovery.
- Wendy Fitch asks for prayers for their family as they lost her Grandma Opal on Christmas Eve.
- Dave Sorsoleil continues recovering from back surgery and a heart attack which occurred during the surgery in December.
- Continued prayers of strength and courage for young Emma Mutterer during chemotherapy.
- Pat Bowe will have surgery February 20 to remove the tumor in her pancreas.
- Sara Gaeth’s sister, Ruth, was just diagnosed with breast cancer.
- The Froemming’s friend, Joyce, had surgery today to remove a grapefruit-sized tumor.
- Please pray for Ruth Fischer’s nephew, Allan, who was just diagnosed with colon cancer and is beginning chemotherapy in February.
- Pray for Sally Froemming’s healing and strength following a fall resulting in surgery for several broken bones in her arm.
- Kathy Maiden’s chemotherapy is hitting her hard with lots of nausea, so please pray for improved tolerance as she kicks cancer!!
- Tammy Jacobs continues recovering at home following her mastectomy, and will soon know what her follow-up treatment plan will be.
- Thanksgiving that Willis Kiphuth did well following his cardiac ablation.
- Pray for Matt Stephen to be able to have a successful hip replacement soon.
- Celebration that Kris & Laura Dirks were able to serve in the mission field in Haiti for several weeks in January.
- Keep praying for Martha Grimme, Janice Erickson, Bertha Jones, Joe Kalway, and all who are facing serious health issues or living with chronic illness or pain.
- Continued prayers for the work that our MCCI teams are doing, and that our church will grow in our ability to reach out to those who need to know the hope and joy that comes from knowing Christ.



Preschool Staff:

Melissa Ungaro, director
Christine Hartke, 3-year-old & 4/5 teacher
Jenny Hanson, teaching assistant

This January we did a variety of indoor winter activities in preschool, including science experiments with freezing and thawing. We brought snow into our sand/water table, we built and painted lots of paper snowmen, and we learned a lot about polar bears and penguins. We continued Second Step, which is our anti-bullying curriculum, and continued weekly Gym Nation physical education classes, exercising our muscles and increasing our flexibility, strength and balance. Twice a month we have chapel visits led by Dianne McLain, Curtis Rieck or Debbie Bishop, which the students are greatly enjoying!

February will be a VERY exciting month in preschool as we start registering students for next year! All returning preschool families and members of BUMC get priority registration in the month of February, and then open registration begins on March 1. Registration forms can be found in the church entryway and on our website. Full details about our program can be found on our website as well. On February 22 we host an **Open House in the preschool rooms from 5:00 – 6:00 pm** so prospective families can tour our wonderful facility, meet the staff, enjoy treats, and get informed about what we have to offer. In 2018-19 we will offer a Tues./Thur. class (9:00 – 11:30) for 3 year olds, and Mon./ Wed./ Fri. classes (9:00 – 11:30 or 9:00 – 2:00 Extended Day/Lunch Bunch) for our 4/5 year olds.

On February 4 our students will join with BUMC Sunday School students to sing at the 10:30 service. Come and see us give back to you!

As always, thanks for your support with scholarship dollars. Because of your generosity, we are able to offer early childhood education to those who can only afford partial tuition. How proud and grateful we are to be able to say “yes” when a needy family inquires! We always tell those families that it is thanks to the support from our generous congregation that we can offer them some assistance.

Of course, February is always exciting for preschoolers as we emphasize love and friendship, culminating with our Valentine Parties on Feb. 14 and 15. This year we will be teaching our much loved Ocean Unit during the month of February as well, so our rooms will be transformed into a beautiful watery world full of marvelous sea creatures. ****Do you have a small aquarium with some fish you might be will to share with us for a month?? We would love for this opportunity to see “sea life” up close and personal. Please let Melissa know if you do!** Our Beach Parties at the end of the month will help us pretend there is no cold or snow outside!

All in all, February will be fabulous as God continues to bless us! Be sure to come visit us at our Open House 5:00 – 6:00 pm on February 22! And please pass the word through your “social network” so that more young families will know of our Open House and the early childhood education opportunity we offer in this caring, Christian environment.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Melissa Ungaro, Dir.

How You Can Support BUMPreschool

Volunteer: We LOVE to have church members come in! Maybe you have a special interest or something you can share with our students. Like in the spring when we talk about Farming! Or perhaps you have an animal to share with us during one of our animal theme units. Let us know! We would love to have you come in and share with us.

Donations: paper plates, spoons; financial donations to the tuition scholarship fund or to the new Program Enhancement Fund, used to help cover costs of field trips and educational programs, including our physical education program with Gym Nation.

Connection Points

Ministries and fellowship opportunities meeting at regularly scheduled times

United Methodist Women

Every 2nd Thursday of the month



All women are invited to join in the fellowship hall monthly to spend time in fellowship and devotions, and to learn more about the missions supported by the UMW.

This Month: Thursday, February 8 at 1:00 pm
Program: Valentine Cards to homebound friends
Hostesses: Kris Dirks & Mary Johnson

United Methodist Men's Fellowship

Every 3rd Saturday of the month

Men of the church interested in service, faith and fellowship are invited to come meet with other men for fellowship, devotion and fund raising projects. The meetings begin with breakfast at 7:30 am.

This month: Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 am



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every 4th Monday



Gather at Arlene Nelson's home at Park Terrace at 1:00 pm to knit or crochet shawls for people who might be homebound, in the hospital, grieving, or in other challenging situations. Call Dianne McLain at 763-682-2260 with questions.

This month: Monday, February 26 at 1:00 pm

Thursday Gatherings

Every 1st Thursday of the month

Gather in the fellowship hall at 1:00 pm for a time of fellowship playing games and occasional service project. Bring a favorite game and snacks. All are welcome! Call Esther Kiphuth at 763-477-6221 if you have questions.

This month: Thursday, February 1 at 1:00 pm



Adult Bible Study

Every Thursday



An ongoing traditional Bible study meets at Paulette Moore's home. All are welcome to join this study long- or short-term as able. Call Paulette for details at: 763-276-7435.

Currently studying 2 Peter, then will start Revelation.

Weekly: Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Diners Out Fellowship Gathering

Every 4th Thursday of the month

Gather at Perkins May-September at 5:30 pm for food and fellowship. Primarily active seniors, but all welcome! Call Sara Gaeth at 682-4964.

This month: On Hiatus until May



Praise & Coffee

Every 1st Monday of the month



Gather at Perkins for coffee, fellowship and a spirit of praise! All welcome – men, women, young or old! Call Sheryl Lehman at 763-229-0340.

This month: February 5 at 6:00 pm

UPCOMING STUFF

Grades 9-12

(Normal Wednesday Evenings)

Feb. 7

6:00PM- 7:30PM

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 14

6:00 PM SUPPER

6:30PM-7:30PM

FIRST SMALL GROUP
NIGHT

Feb. 21

6:00 PM Lenten

SIGN-UP FOR THE



WHEN: July 22-28

WHERE: Elk River

**Cost before Fundraising:
\$250**

**Any student in grades 9-12
is welcome to attend!**

“Where Everybody



Knows Your Name!”

CURTIS R. RIECK

Curtis@buffalounc.com

(They guy who should know stuff)



Youth Mission Trip 2018

Inspire an epidemic of kindness!



For this opportunity to serve we will be partnering with the Minnesota Annual Conference. They will provide a variety of volunteer opportunities including work with children, seniors, shelters, people in need, and food delivery programs, food pantries, and more.

**Contact any adult leader for more information
OR the church office to sign up!**

The Super Bowl is one of the most expensive programs on which to buy air-time for advertisers. What is your favorite Super Bowl commercial ever? Here are mine that I presented at a youth gathering last month:

1. *Cat Herders*
2. *Bird vs. Jordan playing “horse”*
3. *Hump Day!*
4. *Skechers Man vs Cheetah*

Imagine you had an unlimited budget and could create a commercial for our church. What would it be? What **would you include?**

While I don't really think of my Christian life as a football game, the Bible does use sports to teach about spiritual truths. Here are a couple I found:

In **1 Corinthians 9:24-27**, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

In **Hebrews 12:1-2**, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

In **Philippians 3:12-14**, “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

February Schedules

Scripture Reader Schedule Traditional Celebration Service 10:30	
February 4	Duane Otness
February 11	Pam Croft
February 18	Del Smith
February 25	Mike Knutson
Coffee Server Schedule	
February 4	UEC - Jim & Barbara Norrix
February 11	Jane & Loren Van Dorp
February 18	Norm & Kathy Varner
February 25	Phyllis Griffith & Mary Johnson
Usher Schedule	
8:15 am	
February 4	Troy & Laura Carter
February 11	Andrea & James Dorado
February 18	Troy & Laura Carter
February 25	Troy & Kathy Hanson
10:30 am	
February 4	Ivan Erickson & Lester Hamann
February 11	Del Smith & Susan Sorsoleil
February 18	Bob & Chris Highberg
February 25	Bill & Mary Augustin

Looking Ahead... Items to Put on Your Calendar	
March 3	5 th Grade Communion Class
March 4	5 th Grade FSS Blessing
March 11	Discover BUMC Welcome Gathering
March 11	UMCOR Sunday
March 12	Life Happens! - Bankruptcy
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 29	Holy Thursday Worship
March 30	BUMC Hosts Good Friday Service
April 1	Easter Sunday
April 9	Life Happens!
April 14-15	Sound System Fundraising Concert
April 15	Native American Ministries Sunday
April 20-22	Women's Retreat @ Lake Koronis

Information

Devotional Resources

Current issues of the *Upper Room* are available in the entryway for a nominal donation.

Prayer Requests

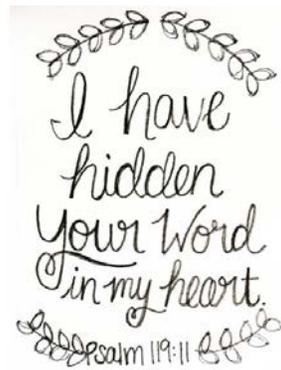
Call the office or use the cards available in the pews to make prayer requests. Turn them in to the pastor before services on Sunday morning for inclusion in announcements.

Prayer Circle

Please call the church office at 763-682-3538 with prayer concerns or to be part of the prayer circle.

Flowers for the Altar

Do you have a special event or person you want to honor with flowers some Sunday? Sign up on the flower chart posted by the office, and indicate if you will bring your own, or place your check for \$39 in the offering marked "flowers" and we will order.



Please let the church office know:

- ✂ If your telephone number, e-mail address or mailing address change.
- ✂ When a member of your family is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care.
- ✂ If you would like Holy Communion brought to you.
- ✂ If you know of someone in the congregation that could use a delivered meal.

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 8:15 am 9:20-10:20 am 10:30 am	Joyful Praise Worship Fellowship & Education Traditional Worship			1 9:30 am Soup Making 1:00 pm Thursday Gathering 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's 6:30 pm AA Women's Group	2	3 7:30 am Worship Design Team 9:00 am AA
4 <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Preschool-1st Gr Sings</i> <i>in Worship</i> 10:20 Jesus Rocks Rehearsal 1:00 Park View Service 7:30 pm AA (FH)	5 9:00 Commodity Distribution 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm Praise & Coffee 6:30 pm Adult Disciple Vision Team Mtg 7:30 pm AA	6 10:30 am AA 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 7:30 pm Preschool Board Meeting	7 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise	8 1:00 pm UMW 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's 6:30 pm AA Women's Group	9	10 9:00 am AA
11 <i>Chancel Chimes Play;</i> <i>Curtis Preaching</i> <i>2nd-6th Gr sing in</i> <i>Worship</i> 7:30 pm AA	12 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm BeFrienders 7:15 pm Life Happens 7:30 pm AA	13 10:30 am AA 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting	14 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Supper 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm Children's Lenten Class 7:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise	15 6:30 pm AA Women's Group 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's	16	17 7:30 am UMM 9:00 am AA
18 10:20 am Jesus Rocks Rehearsal 7:30 pm AA	19 <i>No Preschool</i> 10:00 am AA 7:30 pm AA	20 10:30 am AA 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	21 8:30 am Weight Watchers 3:00 Guest Connections Team Meeting 6:00 Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Session 6:30 pm Children's Lenten Class 7:30 pm Joyful Praise	22 5:00-6:00 pm Preschool Open House 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's 6:30 pm AA Women's Group	23	24 9:00 am AA 7:00 pm Saturday Awakenings – Jumpin' Jehosafats
25 <i>Jesus Rocks Sings</i> 11:15 am Confirmation Design Team Meeting 7:30 pm AA	26 10:00 am AA 1:00 pm Prayer Shawls at Arlene's 7:30 pm AA	27 10:30 AA 6:30pm Weight Watchers 7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting	28 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Supper 6:30 pm Children's Lenten Class 6:30 pm Lenten Session 7:30 Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise	Meals on Wheels Delivery Daily Monday - Friday 		



Buffalo United Methodist Church
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Buffalo United Methodist Church

*...serving people for Jesus Christ
so that we all may know joy!*

Office Hours:

Closed Mondays
Tuesday-Thursday – 9 am to 3 pm
Friday – 9 am to 1 pm

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763-682-3538 763-682-3614

E-Mail:

Office@BuffaloUMC.com

Website

www.BuffaloUMC.org



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Lent Series



Ash Wednesday, February 14

Supper 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

February 21 through March 21

Supper at 6:00 p.m.

Lent Sessions at 6:30 p.m.

*The Joy Connection is a monthly publication of The Buffalo United Methodist Church.
Submission deadline is the third Thursday of every month.*