

Joy Connection

Newsletter
February 2019



Furloughed Disciples?

As I write this, our government has been shut down for 28 days, with hundreds of thousands of federal workers furloughed or required to report to work without pay, and most likely millions of government contractors left in limbo. Once again, our nation appears to be paralyzed, stuck in an unbreakable deadlock over opposing political agendas. It's tempting to dismiss it all as a broken system and the result of electing politicians who are more interested in winning than in serving our country. But is the political showdown behind the shutdown really something new, or simply an example of bigger issues we face whenever two or more people try to do something together?

The Bible is full of examples of political dissent. Adam and Eve argued in the Garden of Eden. Cain murdered Able. Factions formed in wilderness wanderings of Israel, with some agitating to return to Egypt, and others for new leadership. The disciples competed for the attention of Jesus and even argued with him and each other about their mission. Even the early church, described in Acts, struggled with dissent and differing visions of the future. What's the one thing that all these examples have in common? There was never a shutdown of the people called Israel or the church of Jesus Christ. The disciples were never furloughed. Sometimes leadership changed, as when Joshua took up the mantle of Moses and lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. Sometimes the movement took a detour, as when the people we're taken into foreign exile. Sometime compromises were made, as when the Jerusalem Council decided to relax the membership rules for the Gentiles. But though it all, God's people kept on going. Why do you suppose that is?

As Christians, we are instructed to obey our secular rulers in matters of governance. We're also instructed to pray for them, perhaps especially in days like these. Aren't you glad that we belong to a Kingdom and a King that rises above petty politics, where love trumps winning and unity is possible in the face of such diversity of thought? Nobody knows how long the current shutdown will last, but this I do know: There will be no shutdown of the Kingdom of God, and there will be no furloughed disciples. The Kingdom is open, so get back to work!

Pastor Bill

8:15 am • Joyful Praise Worship

10:30 am • Celebration Worship

Coffee Fellowship & Education • 9:20-10:20 am



Worship

Sunday, February 3

The Sky is Falling!

Psalm 46:1-3

Revelation 11:15-19

Holy Communion

Sunday, February 10

A Different Kind of Love:

Learning from Forrest Gump

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Curtis Rieck preaching

PS-1st Graders sing @10:30

Sunday, February 17

*Sickness, Growing Old
and Death*

John 11:21-27

1 Corinthians 15:35-55

Celebration of Wesley Meals

Sunday, February 24

Where Should I Plop My Tent?

1 Kings 17:2-11

Matthew 7: 24-27

Curtis Rieck preaching

Camping Sunday!

2nd-6th graders sing @both

Four or More Men (10:30)

Friendly Reminders

We encourage you to limit the use of scents and perfumes when coming to church, as some people have health issues making them highly sensitive. Also, if someone hesitates to shake your hand during greeting time, it may simply be due to flu season and a fear of illness. Thanks for your consideration of one another!

Worship Attendance

	Early	Late	Total
Jan. 6	130	53	183
Jan. 13	125	71	196
Jan. 20	113	47	160

About Buffalo UMC

Mission Statement

...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

Phone: 763-682-3538

Fax: 763-682-3614

E-Mail: Office@BuffaloUMC.com

Website: www.BuffaloUMC.org



Find us on Facebook

Buffalo UMC is part of the **Minnesota Annual Conference** of The United Methodist Church.

Church Leadership

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Bill Reinhart

PastorBill@buffaloumc.com

Lay Associate Minister

Laurie Schroeder

Laurie@buffaloumc.com

Youth Coordinator

Curtis R. Rieck

Curtis@buffaloumc.com

Children's Coordinator

Debra Bishop

Debbie@buffaloumc.com

Administrative Assistant

Michelle Jones

Office@buffaloumc.com

Bookkeeper

Patty Steer

Patty@buffaloumc.com

Preschool Director

Melissa Ungaro

Melissa@buffaloumc.com

Custodians

Bob & Ryan Highberg

Bob@buffaloumc.com

Chancel Chimes Director

Jill Starr

Nursery Attendant

Angie Masteller

Leadership Team Members

Jim Norrix, Member at Large

763-263-5499

Larry Frink, Member at Large

218-398-1066

Kris Uter, Member at Large

952-201-5211

Peter Bedker, Lay Leader

763-276-7435

Dexter Lehman, Treasurer

763-229-0335

TBD, Finance Chair

Dave Sieberg, Property Chair

763-682-4734

Gail Hurley, Staff Parish Chair

612-559-9659

Lori Goth, Faith Formation Rep

763-515-3749

The Joy Connection is a monthly publication for members and constituents of Buffalo United Methodist Church. The deadline for newsletter articles is the third Thursday of each month.

Faith Formation—Children

Children's Lenten Classes Begin March 6

Make Wednesday nights starting in March Lent family nights! Come eat dinner 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. Classes will begin on **Ash Wednesday, March 6**. More information will be coming but plan to join us as we plant "Seeds of Hope" this Lent!!

Summer Camping for Kids

Even though it's chilly outside, it's exciting to start thinking about Summer Camp! The April 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!



We will celebrate **Camping Sunday** on **Sunday, February 24** with a short promo during worship. 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.

Sunday School Calendar

February 3	Jesus Rocks rehearsal 10:20-11:00
February 10	PS-1st graders sing at late service with BUMP (10:30)
February 17	Jesus Rocks rehearsal 10:20-11:00
February 24	2nd-6th graders sing at both services
March 3	Jesus Rocks rehearsal 10:20-11:00

Ministry & Missions

Blankets for Beds

It's cold outside! That means the need for new or gently used blankets/linens continues to be great. Place your donations in the "Blankets" box outside of the church office or if you need them picked up, call Dianne McLain 763-682-2260.



February Meals on Wheels

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 Community Center in Buffalo at



11:30 am, Monday-Friday only. There are no weekend deliveries. Please check your calendar and sign up in the entryway if you can help out.

Help Make Soup for Soup-er Bowl Sunday

On Feb 1st, a meal-making crew will be making soups – both to support the Youth for Soup-er Bowl Sunday as well as to add to our frozen meals supply. If you would like to join in on the fun, you are still welcome to join us! On deck will be pea soup and turkey noodle soup! There is still a sign-up sheet in the entry if you would like to donate supplies.

Frozen Meals Available

With all of the cold weather, doesn't beef stew sound delicious? We have plenty in the freezer for you to deliver to someone in need! Who could you bless with the gift of a meal?

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this gathering every fourth Monday of the month 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 25 at 1:00 pm.**



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 ministry leaders.

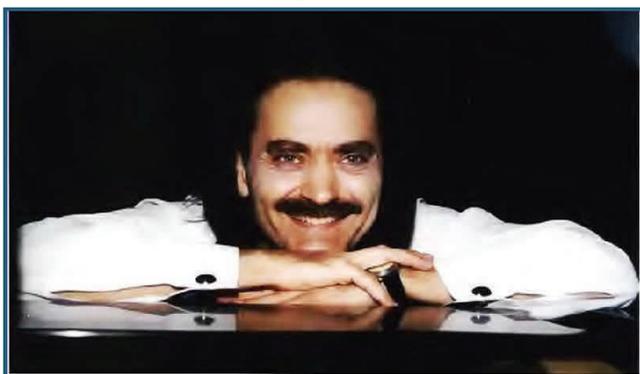
- Help deliver **Meals on Wheels** M-F
- Help at the **Saturday Awakenings** concert on February 9, in the kitchen or as a greeter
- Serve as an "Ask Me" greeter on Sunday mornings.
- Volunteer to teach or assist with four Wed. night children's Lent classes in March.
- Join the MCCI Social Media and/or Website Development Teams.
- Consider leading a short-term adult study group on the subject of your choice.
- Learn to assist with worship tech...please!
- Share a story of hope on a Wednesday night in Lent during our "Seeds of Hope" gatherings. Can be your own story, or a favorite narration about hope.
- Share your talents as a worship musician. See Laurie for the many possible ways.

Fellowship & More

Saturday Awakenings February 9, 7:00 pm Mark Ochu



Come enjoy a unique and engaging multi-media concert with accomplished pianist and organist Mark Ochu on **Saturday, February 9 at 7:00 pm**. Mark will feature music from Bach to Gershwin, and will help us explore hidden meanings in music from historical, societal, and personal perspectives. Not only is he a talented musician, but he knows how to bring us into a deeper connection with classical music. Please join us and invite a friend or two along. Refreshments follow; freewill offering received



United Methodist Men's Fellowship



The United Methodist Men's Fellowship gathers on **Saturday, February 16 at 7:30 am** for fellowship over a hot breakfast, devotions, discussions, and to look for ways to serve our church family and community. Newcomers are welcome any time! Contact Ivan Erickson at 763-497-1742 if you have questions.

United Methodist Women's Fellowship



The United Methodist Women's Group will meet on February 14, 2019 at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be presented by Paul Baker, who is the Pastor of the Montrose United Methodist Church. He will be presenting a slide program on his work with UMCOR. Anyone who is interested in the workings of UMCOR is welcome to attend this meeting. Hostesses will be Gail Hurley and Mary Johnson

Praise and Coffee Gatherings



Another Praise and Coffee fellowship takes place on **Monday, February 4 at 6 pm** with Sheryl Lehman at Perkins. Men, women, young, old – all welcome! Bring a friend. Coffee is optional.

Thursday Game Gathering

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 7 at 1:00 pm**



Ministry Team Updates

Finance Team Report

By Jim Tool

The year 2018 ended in December on a happy note. The supporters of Buffalo United Methodist Church provided income that exceeded expenses by \$15,231 in the month of December. The end result was a yearly income of \$370,760 with expenditures of \$368,816. This gives us a positive balance of \$1,944. The expenditures include the full payment of apportionments to the church conference of \$54,561. Thanks to everyone for the loving and generous support that you have given to our church.

Offering Envelopes Available

Offering envelopes for 2019 are in the entryway at church for those who requested them. If you would like offering envelopes, please contact the church office.



MCCI Update

Ministry continues with our MCCI Teams, always with the goal of reaching new people with the joy of Jesus Christ. The Signage Audit Team has ordered new signs and hopes to have them installed within the next month. The plastic, back-lit signs on the top of the main exterior sign will soon be replaced with updated signs that will feature our new church logo, fonts, and colors. Other signage updates include a new exterior UMC cross and flame by the side of the office entrance, new lettering with the name of our church on the brick above the main doors, and new interior directional signs.

The Worship Excellence Team and Sunday Schedule Feasibility Team continue their work with coach Cathy Townley, with some intensive coaching work in December and January. We are encouraged that there are some relatively straight forward ways in which we can make our 10:30 worship experience one that newcomers will be better able to identify with. We are currently pondering changes to our order of worship as they relate to our mission of reaching new people, as well as further studying alternate Sunday morning schedules.



Preschool News

January included a variety of indoor winter activities, such as science experiments with freezing and thawing, snow play in our sand/water table, building lots of paper/paint snowmen, and learning about polar bears and penguins. We continued Second Step, which is our anti-bullying curriculum, and weekly Gym Nation P.E. classes, exercising muscles and increasing flexibility, strength and balance. The students also enjoyed Chapel visits!

February is exciting as we start registering students for next year! Returning preschool families and members of BUMC get priority. 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 7** 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, and get informed about what we offer. In 2019-20, we will hold a Tu/Th class (9:00 – 11:30) for 3 year olds, and M/W/F classes (9:00 – 11:30 or Extended Day/Lunch Bunch from 9:00 – 2:00) for our 4/5 year olds. On Sunday, February 10 our BUMP preschoolers will sing at the 10:30 worship service. Come and see us give back to you!

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

February is always exciting for preschoolers as we emphasize love and friendship, culminating with our Valentine parties on Feb. 14 & 15. We finish up our ocean unit with beach parties at the beginning of the month, then transform our rooms into the crazy world of Dr. Seuss!

February will be fabulous as God continues to bless us! Be sure to come visit our **Open House 5:00 – 6:00 pm on February 7**, and pass the word through your “social network” so that more young families know of our Open House and the early childhood education opportunity we offer in this caring, Christian environment.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Melissa Ungaro, Director

This February

Feb. 6

An evening spent at
Puzzles Escape Room

Feb. 13

Evening in the
Youth Room

Feb. 20

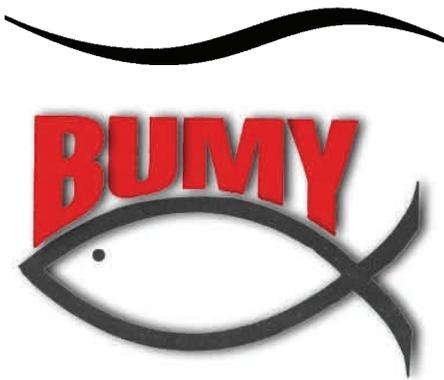
Evening in the
Youth Room

Feb. 27

*A combined night
spent with our
Confirmation friends.
All evenings are from
6:00-7:30 pm*

PARENT REMINDER:

Remember to send dinner
money with your students
when they come on
Wednesday evenings.
Pizza \$1/slice; POP .50 can!



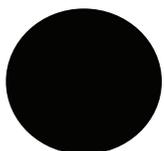
**“Where Everybody
Knows Your Name!”**

CURTIS R. RIECK

Curtis@buffaloumc.com
(The guy who should know stuff)

NO DOTS

NO STARS



Senior High Youth

Look at Valentine’s Day by the numbers, and it boggles the brain a bit:

- \$130.97** The average estimated amount an individual will spend on Valentine’s Day.
- \$224 million** The estimated number of roses grown for this day.
- \$18.6 billion** The projected total amount Americans will spend for Valentine’s Day.
- \$1.6 billion** The amount people will spend on candy
- \$1.9 billion** The amount people will spend on flowers
- \$4.4 billion** The amount people will spend on diamonds, gold, and silver

Not only that, but more than 6 million people will propose on February 14!

But then after the hundreds of pounds of chocolate have been gobbled, and the millions of cards have been exchanged, and the billions of dollars spent, there comes the inevitable follow up –

February 15

That’s the day when we go back to our daily grind, and all that focus on love typically gets thrown out with the wrappers and cards, which is why it is so important to remember that God sends us a very different message:

*For the mountains may move and the hills disappear,
but even then my faithful love for you will remain.*

My covenant of blessing will never be broken,”

says the Lord, who has mercy on you. (Isaiah 54:10).

Now that’s amazing! After the flowers have faded and the feelings have waned, God’s love endures beyond even the **foundations of the earth!** That’s because **His love for us isn’t centered in our beauty, behavior or even our love for Him.** God’s love flows from the unconditional affection and commitment of the perfect Father’s heart.



Puzzles

AN ESCAPE EXPERIENCE

Wed., Feb. 6 We will meet at the Escape Room
(1st Ave S #103, Buffalo, MN)

**No dinner tonight— dessert after! Please sign up
via email to Curtis or on the Youth Room door.**



609 8th Street Northwest
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-3538

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Permit No. 31



Don't Miss...

Sunday Speaker Series

9:20-10:20 am

back of fellowship hall

Sponsored by the Adult Discipleship Vision Team

Sunday, February 24

Human/Sex Trafficking in Wright County
with John Bowen, Assistant County Attorney
For audience 18 years old or older -no children.

Sunday, March 24

Social Principles
Lori McBride of White Bear Lake UMC

Sunday, April 28

Refugee Congress
with Fatuma Elmi

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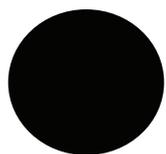
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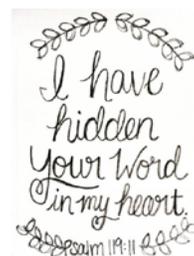
February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Sunday Schedule 8:15 am Joyful Praise Worship 9:20-10:20 am Fellowship & Education 10:30 am Traditional Worship						1 9:30 am Soup Making	2 7:30 am Worship Design Meeting 9:00 am AA 1:00 pm Pat Bowe Visitation 2:00 pm Pat Bowe Funeral
3 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:20 am Unafraid Book Study 10:20 am Jesus Rocks Rehearsal 2:00 pm Park View Service 7:30 pm AA (FH)	4 9:00 am Commodity Distribution 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm Private Dinner 6:00 pm Praise & Coffee at Perkins 7:30 pm AA	5 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm Weight Watchers 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 7:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting	6 8:30 am Weight Watchers 2:00 pm Guest Connections Meeting 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	7 1:00 pm Thursday Gathering 5:00-6:00 pm Preschool Open House 6:30 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's	8	9 9:00 am AA 7:00 pm <i>Saturday Awakenings</i> – Mark Ochu	
10 <i>3yo-1st Gr. Sing in Worship</i> <i>Handbells play in Worship</i> 9:20 am Unafraid Book Study 7:30 pm AA	11 10:00 am AA 6:15 pm BeFrienders 7:15 pm Life Happens! 7:30 pm AA	12 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm Weight Watchers 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting	13 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Confirmation – Faith Night 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	14 1:00 pm UMW 6:30 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's 	15	16 7:30 am UMM 9:00 am AA	
17 10:20 am Jesus Rocks Rehearsal 7:30 pm AA	18 No Preschool 10:00 am AA 7:30 pm AA	19 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm Weight Watchers	20 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	21 6:30 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's	22	23 9:00 am AA	
24 <i>2nd-6th Gr. Sing in Worship</i> 9:20 am Sex Trafficking in Wright Cnty Class 7:30 pm AA	25 10:00 am AA 1:00 pm Prayer Shawls at Arlene's 7:30 pm AA	26 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm Weight Watchers 7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting	27 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Confirmation – combined night w/ Sr. High Youth 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise Rehearsal	28 6:30 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study at Paulette's	February is BUMC's month to deliver Meals on Wheels. Sign up now to help! 		

February Schedules

Scripture Reader Schedule Traditional Celebration Service 10:30	
February 3	Duane Otness
February 10	Barbara Sargent
February 17	Jerry Ford
February 24	Mike Knutson
Coffee Server Schedule	
February 3	UEC – Dennis & Tracy Daleiden
February 10	Jane & Loren Van Dorp
February 17	Norm & Kathy Varner
February 24	Sandy Wedele & Mary Johnson
Usher Schedule	
8:15 am	
February 3	Tim & Kathy Maiden
February 10	Alison & Aria Sturm
February 17	Troy & Laura Carter
February 24	Dennis & Tracy Daleiden
10:30 am	
February 3	Ivan Erickson & Lester Hamann
February 10	Linda Bostic & Susan Sorsoleil
February 17	Bob & Chris Highberg
February 24	Ivan Erickson & Susan Anderson

Looking Ahead... Items to Put on Your Calendar	
March 2	5 th Grade Communion Class
March 3	5 th Grade FSS Blessing
March 6	Ash Wednesday
March 6- April 10	Lenten Dinners & Worship Series begin - every Wednesday
March 23	Saturday Awakenings - Shamrok
March 30	Wesley Meal
March 31	One Great Hour of Sharing/UMCOR Sunday
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 18	Holy Thursday Worship
April 21	Easter Sunday
April 27	Saturday Awakenings - Randy Sabien



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 in the office and indicate if you will bring your own, or place your check for \$40 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.