



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Jan. 16

Worship: Sunday, Jan. 18 @ 9:00 0 am

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

New Sermon Series — God Behaving Badly?

Many people picture God as wrathful and angry—a deity who smites people left and right for reasons that aren't always clear. Parts of the Old Testament can seem to reinforce this image: the flood, nations destroyed, armies wiped out, judgment falling with what looks like extreme prejudice.

But wait—there's more to the story. Right alongside these troubling passages are some of the most beautiful portraits of God's love, mercy, patience, and forgiveness. We meet a God who is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love," even in the very same pages that challenge us.

So how do we hold these truths together? How do we make sense of what feels like a contradiction—not just intellectually, but emotionally and spiritually? Can a God who judges and is angry also be trusted? Can a God who forgives also be rightly feared?

This new series, *God Behaving Badly*, based on David T. Lamb's book, invites us to correct our vision of God. Together, we'll explore Scripture with fresh eyes, wrestling with the hard questions about God's anger, justice, mercy, and love. We'll see that God's character is rich, complex, and ultimately trustworthy. By looking carefully at the stories and words of Scripture, we begin to see God more clearly—not as harsh or distant, but as holy, loving, and faithful.

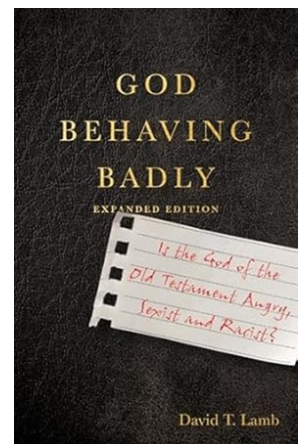
Over the coming weeks, we will learn to remove the distortions, put on the lens of Scripture, and encounter God as He truly is. Our hope is that by the end, our vision of God will be clearer, deeper, and life-changing.

This Sunday - Is God Angry or Loving? | 2 Samuel 6:3-8

Many imagine God as harsh and quick to anger—and stories like Uzzah's only deepen the confusion. Yet Scripture also reveals a God overflowing with mercy and steadfast love. So, which is it? How do we reconcile a God who judges with a God who forgives? Is God angry or loving?

Next Sunday — Is God Sexist or Affirming? | Genesis 1:26-28 NRSV, Genesis 2:19-23

Genesis tells of God creating woman as a "helper" for man—but what does that word really mean? Is she merely an assistant, secondary in value or purpose? Is God sexist? Or is Scripture revealing something far richer about shared dignity, partnership, and God's design for both men and women? These questions shape how we understand God and ourselves. The answer may surprise you... come find out.





Other Ministry Updates

- Jan 18** **9:00 am** Worship with Handbells
 10:00 am Sunday School &
 Confirmation
 10:00 am Fellowship
- Jan 20** **4:00 pm** SPRC Meeting
- Jan 21** **6:30 pm** Handbells
- Jan 23** **6:30 pm** Movie Night
- Jan 25** **9:00 am** Worship with Handbells
 10:00 am Sunday School &
 Confirmation
 10:00 am Fellowship
 10:30 am Congregational Care

Children

This Sunday kids will continue their lessons on learning to follow Jesus. This week we will learn about fasting. They will learn that fasting is giving something up that usually takes a lot of attention which can take away from the time we have with God. They will learn that fasting from these activities can help them spend more time with God and be a disciple of Jesus.

Confirmation

This Sunday the Confirmation students will be working through lesson 7. Lesson 7 is on the Reformation. They will learn about what the Reformation was and how it reshaped the church and created a way for new denominations including The United Methodist Church. Reminder there are two volunteer opportunities for students if they are looking for hours. They can serve Communion in second service on **February 1st** and help with Movie Night on **January 23rd**. Please reach out to Taylor if your student is interested.

Movie Night

Join us on **Friday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM** for a Family Movie Night you won't want to miss! We will be watching A Dog's Purpose, a heartwarming movie that is great for all age groups. Invite your family and friends everyone is welcome to enjoy a fun evening with your church family. Popcorn will be provided, so bring your pillows and blankets, get comfortable, and come enjoy a cozy and memorable movie night together.

Discover BUMC

New to BUMC or have questions? Join us for "Discover BUMC" on **Sunday, January 25**, at a marked table in the fellowship hall after worship. Hosted by our Guest Connections Team, this is a great opportunity to ask questions, meet others, and learn about our church. If you are considering membership, a new member class will be offered in February.

Ride Needed

We are still looking for volunteers willing to provide rides for Sunday worship. A woman recently contacted the church seeking transportation to services. She uses a walker, lives at Woodmere in Buffalo. She is hoping to reconnect with a church community. She prefers the second service on the first Sunday of each month but is flexible. If you are able to help—either regularly or occasionally, a sign-up schedule is located on Michelle's desk. Thank you for helping us extend a warm welcome.

Winter Survival Kits

In partnership with Love, Inc. and in support of our community's homeless, we are putting together Winter Survival Kits. These kits will include essentials such as hats, gloves, socks, basic toiletries, nutrition bars, and a cozy throw. The Thrift Store has generously offered to provide socks, gloves or mittens, and stocking caps for this effort. A sign-up sheet on the bulletin board lists additional items needed to assemble at least 15 kits. We will gather to assemble the kits after church on **January 25**.

Meals on Wheels

February is our designated month to support Meals on Wheels. There is a new sign-up process for volunteer drivers. Catholic Charities has implemented a registration system through [VolunteerHub](#). Please use the link or QR code to sign up: This system is new, so if you need assistance or have questions, please contact Michelle.

