



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Jan. 23

Worship: Sunday, Jan. 25 @ 9:00 0 am

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

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.

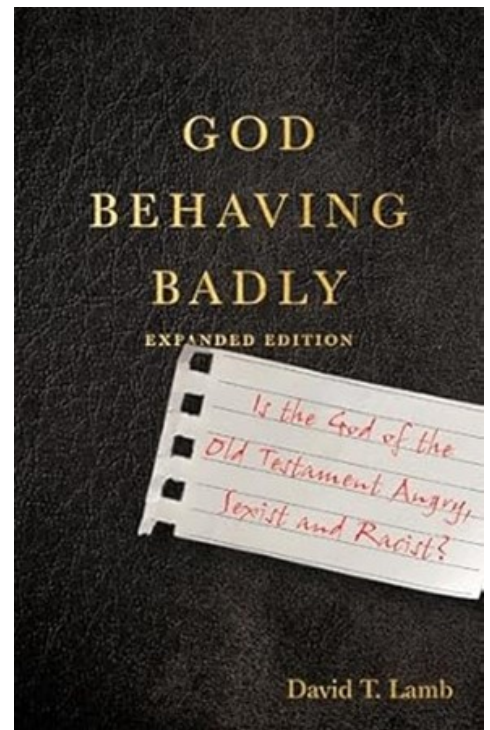
But wait—there's more to the story. Right alongside these troubling passages are some of the most beautiful portraits of God's love, mercy, patience, and forgiveness. We meet a God who is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love," even in the very same pages that challenge us.

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 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 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 25** **9:00 am** Worship with Handbells
10:00 am Sunday School & Confirmation
10:00 am Fellowship
10:00 am Discover BUMC
10:30 am Congregational Care
- Jan 26** **1:00 pm** Prayer Shawl
- Jan 27** **6:30 pm** Finance Team Meeting
- Jan 28** **6:30 pm** Handbells
- Feb 1** **9:00 am** Contemporary Worship with Communion
10:00 am Sunday School & Confirmation
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 am Traditional Worship with Communion

Discover BUMC

New to BUMC or have questions? Join us for “Discover BUMC” this **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.

Winter Survival Kits

In partnership with Love, Inc., we are assembling Winter Survival Kits to support members of our community experiencing homelessness. Kits will include hats, gloves, socks, basic toiletries, nutrition bars, and a throw. The Thrift Store is providing socks, gloves/mittens, and stocking caps. A sign-up sheet on the bulletin board lists remaining items needed to complete at least 15 kits. Assembly will take place after church this Sunday, **January 25**. Please place donations in the black rolling cart near the office hallway by this Sunday. Thank you!

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl group meets the 4th Monday of the month at **1:00 pm** in the Church fellowship hall. Our purpose is to bring comfort to people through the knitting/crocheting of prayer shawls, scarves and hats. The group is

open and welcoming to anyone who wishes to be part of this simple but caring ministry. Our next meeting is **Monday, January 26**.

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed

February is our designated month to support Meals on Wheels. There is a new sign-up process for volunteer drivers. Catholic Charities of St. Cloud has implemented a registration system through [VolunteerHub](#). Please use this link or QR code to sign up: This system is new, so if you need assistance or have questions, please contact Stacy @ 320-229-4592.



Membership Class

Come learn more about Buffalo UMC and Methodism in general on **Sunday, Feb 8th at**



10:15 am in the conference room. All are welcome whether contemplating membership or not. It's a great chance to get to know some other people, and get information. Those who choose to join following the class will be received as members on **Sunday, February 15** during worship. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call church to let us know you're coming. The nursery will also be available.

Children

This Sunday in Sunday School kid's will be learning about Prayer. They will learn about how important it is to talk to God through prayer and start to learn how they can talk to God. They will learn that God loves to hear their prayers and be with them.

Confirmation

This Sunday the Confirmation Students will have a meeting with the Faith Partners. They will be working through the lesson God the Redeemer. Students and Faith Partners will work in their Bibles and find places where we see God's redeeming love through the Son of God Jesus Christ.



Other Ministry Updates

Security Task Force Update

The Security Task Force has been working behind the scenes for several months, and here is the current proposal presented to and approved by Leadership Team:

- The Team will be renamed “Safety Response Team” and will include plans for all types of disasters (including but not limited to): fire, severe weather, medical issues, disruptive behaviors.
- The Team should include about 6 members and will work in conjunction with the Ministry Teams as needed.
- Interested volunteers should be skilled in organization, concrete planning and execution, and working well with others.
- The goal will be improving overall safety of our church.
- Please contact [Collin Gravely](#) or [Gloria Farwick](#) to volunteer or seek more information.

Wrapped in Love

As people of faith, we are called to help create a world where there is room for all. Providing sanctuary is part of the Christmas story—and part of our ongoing story. *Wrapped in Love* is a continuing mission at BUMC that supports adopted children and foster families. By donating **new socks and underwear**, you offer a simple but meaningful reminder that they are seen, welcomed, and loved—by us and by Jesus.



Please place donations in the marked box in the coat room. Cash donations are also welcome; contact [Michelle](#), and [Rita Varner Otness](#) will shop on your behalf.



Thank You!

- The dear people you just helped with your gift may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be—Thank

you! And through your financial support you are serving within a vital web of interactive relationships, partnering to engage globally in direct ministry to people in need.—
UMCOR

- Our Sincere thanks for your generous \$750 donation which we will put to use to feed our friends and neighbors in need. I am sincerely grateful for the wonderful representation on our board of directors by your parish.—*Buffalo Food Shelf*
- Thank you from all of us at Buffalo Rotary Adopt-a-family. We couldn't serve over 190 families in our community without the use of your lovely space. And your support coordinating it.—*Adopt-a-Family*

Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

BUMC is now serving as a food pantry in partnership with *Neighbors Feeding Neighbors*. This community-based nonprofit has stocked our coatroom with free meal kits to help improve food accessibility in Buffalo. The kits are available to those in need during regular office hours. Each package includes shelf-stable ingredients designed to feed up to four people, requiring little or no additional items.

Ride Needed

We are still looking for volunteers willing to provide rides for Sunday worship for a woman at Woodmere in Buffalo. 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.

Gift Card Scams

This is a friendly reminder that Pastor Amy and other church staff will never text or email you with a request to buy gift cards, transfer or send money, or anything else like that. If it looks like a scam, it usually is. This is a well-known scam that has been in operation for years.

Prayer Ministries

Sign up for the prayer chain any time to be part of that ministry or share your prayer needs via our prayer email Prayerrequests@buffaloumc.com.