

So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Jan. 7

This Sunday, January 9 @ 9:00 am

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

This Sunday - Making and Keeping Promises

Today we have cleaning agents, margarine, and personal-health products with names like Pledge, Ensure, Promise, and Depends. Despite its importance to most theological and philosophical traditions, our moral vocabulary related to fidelity and promising has been trivialized, our culture jaded about making and keeping promises. How do so many of us continue to make and keep promises?



**Making
and
Keeping
Promises**

Scripture Reading—

“The LORD did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands. But he does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who reject him. Therefore, you must obey all these commands, decrees, and regulations I am giving you today. Deuteronomy 7:7-14 NLT

Living Truthfully



Next Sunday – Living Truthfully

If we take seriously God's assessment in the book of Jeremiah that the human heart is “deceitful above all things” then perhaps we shouldn't be surprised by the condition of our world. But redeemed communities are called to a different life- one where we put away falsehood and speak truth with our neighbors, remembering that we belong to one another.

Sunday Fellowship

Come and join us for Sunday fellowship . If you're not eating or drinking, you're encouraged to wear a mask in the Fellowship Hall. We are still encouraging everyone over the age of 2 to wear a face covering inside our building so that we may continue to enjoy gathering in person.



**Fellowship
Time**

After Worship

10:00



Other Ministry Updates

Coming Up in Ministry

- Jan 9** 9:00 am Worship Service with Handbells
10:00 am Sunday School & Education
10:00 am Fellowship
- Jan 11** 7:00 pm Leadership Meeting
- Jan 12** 6:00 pm Confirmation Focus Night
6:30 pm Senior High Youth
6:30 pm Handbell Practice
- Jan 15** 1:00 pm The Event
- Jan 16** 9:00 am Worship Service with Handbells
10:00 am Sunday School & Education
10:00 am First Grade Prayer Class
10:00 am Fellowship

“The Event” for Grades 7-12

We will be attending The Event at St Cloud First UMC on **January 15m 1-6pm.**



Registration for the day is \$20, and we'll do the registration for you as a single church. You will receive a registration form by mail. Please return it by **Sunday, January 9.** Scholarships are available, if needed.

First Grade Faith Stepping Stone

Our first graders will learn about prayer in a Faith Stepping Stones class during Sunday School hour on Sunday, **January 16.** How special that parents and their 1st grade children will learn about prayer together. Then on Sunday, **January 23** the children will receive prayer books and a congregational blessing during worship.

Meals on Wheels in February

Don't forget that February is our month to provide drivers for Meals on Wheels delivery in Buffalo! Check your calendar and watch for the sign-up sheets posted soon in the entryway.



Chili Cook-Off & Winter Games



Start perfecting your chili recipe now so you can enter it in the Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, **February 6!** This fun event will again include the

one-day Cribbage tournament. Mark your calendars now!

Open House

Dale and Diane Lay will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on **January 8th** and they are inviting everyone to an open house from **1-4 pm** at the Bison Creek in Buffalo. No gifts please, cards are ok.

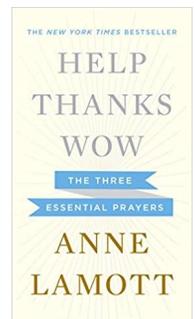
What Are You Reading?

The Adult Disciple Vision Team has asked BUMC members to submit reviews of what they are presently reading, watching, or studying. In upcoming months, you will see a review from an individual and we are hoping that this will inspire you to also pick up the book, watch the movie, or engage in the devotional that is being reviewed. Please feel free to speak with the person who submitted the review. Also, if you would like to submit a review on a book, movie, devotional, study, or blog, please send it to Rita at ritaraevo@gmail.com as we welcome more participants.

The following book title and summary was submitted by Jean Metcalf.

Help, Thanks, Wow: - The Three

Essential Prayers by Anne Lamott
Received as a gift, I've been absolutely delighted with this book. It is a simple yet profound condensation of prayers - our cries for assistance, the lift that gratitude can bring and feeling awe at the world. Lamott describes the essence of prayer in authentically human terms with stories from her own experiences. Her insights touch and encourage me to be more honest and open in prayer and kinder to those around me.

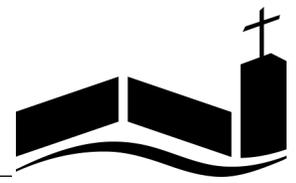


Secure Giving



Worship Registration





A Message from Curtis

Dear Buffalo United Methodist Church,

I remember telling some of you about the time I tried to put together a 1,000 piece puzzle. I poured out the pieces, pushed the box aside and got to work. I grabbed a couple pieces. They looked like they might fit together, too! But they didn't. I did this over and over until Linda finally sat down, put the box back on the table and I soon found how helpful it is to look at the whole picture as you work! What I needed was to see the big picture. If we don't have the big picture we don't know where things are headed, we ask questions out of frustration and we aren't sure what our lives are supposed to look like.

I've learned that it's not the easy pieces in my life that I struggle with finding how they fit – it's the more difficult pieces. But this is where I have learned that it really helps to step back and look at the big picture, GOD'S big picture.

One of the most famous promises in the Bible is Romans 8:38. It says, "All things work together for good." Paul didn't mean that God works out all things for our comfort, our convenience or our way. So here's what I know: if we love God first, and keep the big picture in mind, then someday when we look back, we'll say, "All the things that happened, good or bad – made me MORE LIKE JESUS!" And that's the BIG PICTURE and I believe in that.

With this in my heart, I want to thank each and every member and friend of Buffalo UMC. First, for what you have done for me and my family. You supported us as we watched our boys begin their careers, my illness, my difficult schedule and my father's death. You treated us like family and took an interest not only in our work, but in us. Your

financial support to the Church enabled us to continue to live in a wonderful home and do many things that some people only dream of doing. You were patient, understanding, generous and warmhearted. We were truly blessed to spend this time with you and we pray you have felt all of these same things.

Secondly, you have supported your young people continuously. You have enabled them to travel, excel, grow and see the joy and possibilities within a family of faith. This you will continue to do, along with those who come after you. It will be such fun to see how God creates and surprises you, and us, as the picture comes more and more into focus.

Whatever the future holds for Buffalo UMC and BUMY, as well as my family, we know that if we put His purpose first, as a result He will make us all MORE LIKE JESUS (Romans 8:29)! THAT is God's big picture – that's what's on the top of the puzzle box – that's why we all should be excited to see what comes next.

Thank you Buffalo UMC! These six years together have been a wonderful blessing! May the amazing grace of the Master Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, and the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you now, and forever!

Curtis, Linda, Christian and Caleb

