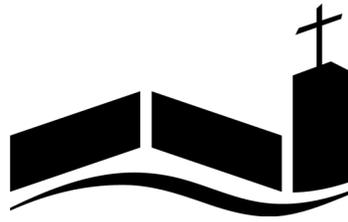


**BUFFALO
UNITED METHODIST**



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—July 17

This Sunday, July 19, 9:00 am

on Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook Page:

Second Chances: Stories of Restoration and Redemption Series Continues

The message of the Gospel is that no matter where we are or what we've done, God sees beyond our imperfections, loves us, forgives us and offers us a new life.



Driven Men –July 19

Religion in the time of Jesus was dominated by educated men with a family pedigree and a zeal for power and the admiration of their colleagues. The second chances given by Jesus weren't reserved for the powerless. Even driven men like Joseph of Arimetha, Nicodemus, and Saul were given ways to redeem themselves after the death of Jesus. And one of BUMC's own "driven men" will welcome you to worship this Sunday, so don't miss it!

Rain Garden video—Stick around at the end of worship for another video sponsored by our BUMC Hopeful EarthKeepers.

This one is about putting in a rain garden by Jessica Lilja Olson. Whether you might consider one at home, or might want to help install one here on the church grounds (which is being planned), we hope you'll stick around and learn a bit about rain gardens. Then we also invite you to church Wednesday evening where we'll show you the site for our BUMC rain garden. See details below!

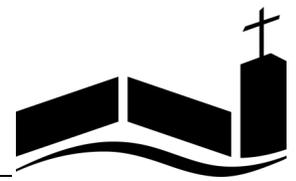
Wednesday Evening "Praise and Prayer" Worship Gathering July 22 at 7:00 pm

We will have a short outdoor worship service based on Psalm 42 this Wednesday, July 22 at 7:00 pm!

Here's your chance to gather (at a distance) here at church (weather permitting). But, if you're still not sure about gathering in-person, you can watch this Wednesday worship on Facebook as a livestream! Just go to our church's FB page. If you come to church, bring your face mask and a lawn chair or blanket. We will have a little music in the service.

EarthKeepers Host Rain Garden Gathering - After the service at around 7:30 pm, we'll have a short gathering from our BUMC Hopeful EarthKeepers to learn a little more about rain gardens, and look at the site on church grounds where we'll install our own rain garden! We encourage you to watch the rain garden video at the end of worship this Sunday before coming if you get a chance. It is also available on our Buffalo UMC Hopeful EarthKeepers YouTube channel. Just go to YouTube and type in "Consider a Rain Garden" and it should show up.





Other Ministry Updates

Confirmation 2020-2021

Yes, there will be a confirmation program this year, although it's still unclear whether the service of confirmation will be held in September as usual with a modified format, or delayed until larger gatherings are possible. Like educators everywhere, we are preparing to adjust to whatever the current situation is in Minnesota with the pandemic. Current students and parents should check their email for an important update from Pastor Bil that was sent this past week. Prospective new students will receive a letter soon. If you don't receive one, please call Michelle Jones at church.

Sanctuary Watch Parties on Hold

We only had six people who voiced actual interest in coming to the sanctuary in August for a "watch party" to view our worship video with others with best practices in place. Because of that, we are going to hold off on sanctuary gatherings for now. The leadership team is looking at the possibilities for fall as to worship, Sunday School and confirmation, based on recommendations as they are updated from the annual conference and governor.

Staffing Change Update Attached

An extra page is attached to this Weekly Connection dedicated to information on the staffing changes and hiring plans going on here at Buffalo UMC. Please read through it and remember that your help and prayers are much appreciated as we move forward during a time of change and pandemic.

Learn More about Racism

Our Adult Discipleship Team is planning a couple events to help you find resources to learn more about racism.

Mark your calendar for

Wednesday, July 29 at 7:30 pm following our evening worship event. People will share about resources they have discovered and recommend. For a reasoned approach, check out **Bret Weinstein's DarkHorse Podcast - Black Intellectual Roundtable on YouTube.**



Meals and Support during Pandemic

It's been suggested that during the pandemic, when some are not comfortable having homemade meals brought to their homes, we could instead buy gift cards for takeout or provide cash to families who are going through cancer treatments, like the Bowe and Uter families, or others who are struggling. You may send gift cards directly to those who could use them, and/or you may want to donate cash to our family fund. If you need addresses or have questions, call Laurie or Michelle at church.

Send a Birthday Card to Willard Kreitlow

Help Willard Kreitlow celebrate his 98th birthday on July 23. His family invites you to send a card to help him celebrate! Send to Willard Kreitlow, 7616 25th St. SW, Howard Lake, MN 55349.

Ways to Give Your Tithes and Offerings

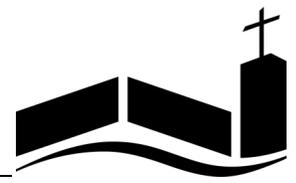
God's call to ministry is ongoing in summer and regardless of pandemics, so your gifts really matter to the life of the church! Here are the varied ways you can give:

- EFT (automated giving) helps maintain cash flow and can be set up through Patty
- Mailing in your offerings is also great— send to BUMC at 609 8th St NW, Buffalo 55313
- Use free online banking BillPay.
- Give on our website or our Facebook page by clicking on the "give" link. Do remember that whenever you use a credit card, the fees use up a portion of your gift, however.

Access to the church office remains available by appointment and the church telephone will continue to be answered (remotely) during business hours.

This Week in Ministry

- July 19 **9:00 am Online Worship on Facebook**
- July 21 **Staff Parish Team Meeting** online
- July 22 **7:00 pm Praise & Prayer Worship** gathering at church; also livestreamed to watch from home
- 7:30 pm EarthKeepers presentation** on Rain Gardens, only at church
- July 26 **9:00 am Online Worship**



Staff Parish Relations Team Update on Staff Changes By Pastor Bill

In addition to Laurie Schroeder's retirement at the end of August, the Staff-Parish Relations Team is making plans to cover other staffing changes as well. Debbie Bishop will vacate her current position as Children's and Family Ministries Coordinator at the end of August to assume two new part-time roles (see below) derived from the Lay Associate Minister (LAM) position vacated by Laurie Schroeder. Bookkeeper Patty Steer is moving to Montana, hopefully this fall, and Custodian Ryan Highberg has taken a new job. Here's the current hiring plan and how you can help.

1) Custodian. There is currently no paid custodial help for the BUMC building. **Gail Hurley** is leading a team to develop a transition plan between the minimal custodial needs we currently have and the needs we will have as we resume in-person ministries and worship. Reach out to Gail with an offer to help keep our bathrooms and building clean or creative ideas for custodial staffing. A job posting will be shared with the congregation once the team determines what the current and future custodial needs are.

2) Bookkeeper. Jean Metcalf (with help from Craig Farwick) is leading the search for a new bookkeeper. We expect the bookkeeping needs to remain relatively unaffected by operational changes associated with the pandemic. Administrative Assistant Michelle Jones is currently cross-training with Patty in order to help bridge this staffing transition and train in the new bookkeeper when they are hired. A job posting will be shared with the congregation once the details of the position have been finalized.

3) Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator. Christy Eckenrode and **Beth Ristow** are leading the effort to form a transition plan for Children's and Family Ministries, including the likely possibility of needing to rely on our strong lay leadership in this ministry area until such time as our need for more permanent staffing becomes clearer. Reach out to Christy and Beth to offer your ministry help and creative ideas for Sunday School, Prayer Partners, Sunday School Music, and other essential ministries to our children and families.

4) Ministry Coordinator and Worship Coordinator. Debbie Bishop will assume these two new roles at the time of Laurie's retirement. As that date approaches, we'll do our best to communicate more specifically what those roles entail, understanding that they will be changing as we move from online worship and ministries to in-person worship and ministries.

5) Keyboardist(s) and Praise Band Leaders. **Debbie Bishop** is leading an effort to identify a team of volunteer and/or paid keyboardists and individuals able to lead practices and worship for the praise band. If you are interested in either, or have connections with musicians who might be interested, please reach out to Debbie.

6) Other LAM Duties. The remaining job functions currently being staffed by Laurie Schroeder will be shared among our Administrative Assistant, Pastor Bill, the Adult Discipleship Vision Team, the Guest Connections Team, and all of you dedicated ministers of the Gospel!

There is bound to be a period of confusion as we live through this substantial staffing transition during a time when we are already experiencing a disruption of "normal." We'll do our part by communicating as clearly as we can, as soon as we can, about new staff responsibilities. You can help by asking questions, offering to help be part of a solution, and remaining prayerful and patient as we seek God's best for our church and ministries.