



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—July 25

Sunday, July 27 @ 9:00

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



Series – Overcoming Obstacles to Peace

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God,” (Matthew 5:9). But in a world divided by conflict, violence, and war, there is so much that gets in the way. This series delves into some of the common obstacles to peacemaking – complacency, resentment, and violence – leading us first to receive Christ’s peace in our own spirits and then get to the hard work of making peace in the world.

This Sunday – The Kingdom of God: And Let it Begin with Us | Ephesians 2:14-16
Christ proclaims peace, brings peace and is our peace. Yet, our society is steeped in violence and our own spirits may be riddled with hostility. How do we claim the power and the promise of the cross to tear down the walls that have been constructed –and the walls that we have built? This is our task. The work of peacemaking begins here, with us.

Scripture Reading | Ephesians 2:11-18

Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” - remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

New Sermon Series – Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go

There is nothing more crippling than holding on to anger. Anger, more than any other emotion, has the power to consume all aspects of our lives, distort our sense of purpose, and destroy our relationship with God. In the passionate and life-changing book *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*, bestselling author Adam Hamilton brings insight to forgiveness. He contends that only when we learn to forgive others and ourselves can we truly receive forgiveness from God.

Next Sunday – Forgiveness: The Divine Answer Part 1 Psalm 32:1-5

This sermon explores forgiveness as God’s divine answer to the deep needs of human life. Without forgiveness, relationships break down, communities suffer, and individuals carry the heavy burdens of regret, guilt, and resentment. Forgiveness brings freedom, healing, and restored connection—with ourselves, with others, and with God.



Other Ministry Updates

- July 27** 9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Fellowship Hour
- July 28** 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl
- July 29** 6:30 pm Finance Team Meeting
- July 30** 9:30 am Reading in the Park
6:30 pm Movie Night "The Chosen"
- Aug 3** 9:00 am Worship Service with Communion
10:00 am Fellowship Hour

Did You Know?

Did you know that our last round of campers is headed of to camp this Sunday. Do you have time to send a note and/or pray for Cal & Immy Laudenbach at Camp Koronis?



Summer Reading

Our Summer Reading in the Park program happens again

this Wednesday and will continue each Wednesday from 9:30 - 10:30 am through August 20.

Summer Movie Nights Wednesdays | through August 6 | 6:30 pm



Join us this summer for an inspiring and memorable series of Movie Nights at BUMC, featuring *The Chosen: Season 3*! Whether you're a long-time fan or discovering the series for the first time, these evenings offer something special for everyone. Please contact [Sheryl Lehman](#) for more information.

Meals on Wheels in August

Don't forget that August is our month to provide drivers for Meals on Wheels delivery in Buffalo! Click [HERE](#) to sign up online, sign up on the bulletin board in the entry way or call Michelle in the office. Please sign up before **July 22nd**.



Funeral Announcements

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of the following beloved members of our congregation:

Dave Gaeth -A Service will be held on **Saturday,**

July 26, at 10:30 AM, with visitation beginning at **9:30 AM**.

Neil Hammer- A Service will take place on Saturday, **August 2, at 12:00 PM** with visitation beginning at **11:00 am**.

Please keep both families in your prayers during this time of sorrow and remembrance. If you would like to watch the service online live or later on, click [Here](#).

ALL Hymn Sunday!!

Join us on **Sunday, August 3** as Jill and Gerry Starr lead us with an ALL hymn Sunday!! Do you have a favorite you'd love to sing?? THIS Sunday (July 27) you can write the title and drop it in the basket in the entry or email [Debbie Bishop](#) with your suggestions!

Project Pencils

The BUMC Outreach Task Force is excited to partner with Project Pencils to support students at our neighborhood school, Northwinds Elementary. We'll be helping three selected students by providing the exact school supplies they need. Each item will be listed on a tag and displayed on a clothesline in the church entry starting **July 16**. You're welcome to take one or more tags and purchase the specified items (please match brand, size, and color exactly). Return all items to the Project Pencils bin at church by **Sunday, August 3**. If you are unable to do the physical shopping, please consider donating by writing a check to BUMC, noting Project Pencils or give cash. Learn more at [projectpencils.com](#). Questions? Contact Rita Varner Otness.

Celebrating Andrea!

Plan to be in worship on **Sunday, July 27th** as we celebrate Andrea Gravley, and the remarkable ways she has provided faith opportunities and shared God's love with the children and families of BUMC. Andrea will be stepping away from her staff position at the end of this month. We will pray a blessing over her during the service and invite everyone to express their thanks to her during Fellowship time!



Other Ministry Updates

Staff Transition Plans

While we haven't had applications for our two open staff positions yet, the GOOD NEWS is we are putting plans in place to address those ministry areas!

We're grateful that Andrea Gravley has developed excellent, detailed information for programs in the Children's ministries. An Interim Children's Ministry Team has been formed. They'll be able to use the information Andrea generated to move forward with confidence. They have already brought together volunteers for the Sunday School programs and the Nursery.

When Debbie Bishop retires from her position, she will take off several of the "hats" she has worn. She has graciously agreed to continue with specific tasks involving Sunday worship for a while longer. Debbie and Laurie Schroeder will continue coordinating our gifted musicians and leading the Praise Team. We will be looking for volunteers to "wear" some of those "hats" that Debbie will be taking off!

Please CONTINUE to pray for talented and able applicants for our two positions. Please BEGIN praying for the volunteers taking on new roles. And please ask God to show YOU ways you can help in these transitions!

Attention 7th-12th Graders (and Awesome Parents)!

We want YOU to be part of the Super BUMC Youth Service Project! This is a fantastic opportunity for students (grades 7-12) and their cool parents to team up and help our senior church members and friends with small home or yard projects.

First Service Day: **Saturday, August 9 @8:30 am**
We'll "divide and conquer" based on the needs of each project, and every team will be provided with the tools they need to get the job done. We already have two projects lined up and are excited to get started! Meet at the church. Let your kids experience the joy of giving and the impact of helping others—it's meaningful, fun, and deeply rewarding. Ready to join us? Contact George Christ at 612-916-0792 or [email](#)

with the participants from your family. Let's make a difference—together!

Our NEW 2025 - 2026 Interim Children's Ministry Team

We are thrilled to introduce the dedicated team of leaders and volunteers who will be serving in our Children's Ministry this year! These faithful servants will bring energy, compassion, creativity, and a shared commitment to helping children grow in their love for Jesus. We are so grateful for this team's willingness to serve and please keep us in your prayers.



Please join us in welcoming (pictured from left to right): Lori Goth (Children's Ministry Leadership), Eve Smith, Alston Amah, Gail Hurley (Children's Ministry Leadership), Jan Bjore (Children's Ministry Leadership), Sarah Urick and Brianna Kiputh. Also welcome those not shown that include: Abby Harkman (Children's Ministry Leadership), Christy Merkl, Barb Odenthal, Barb Sande, Brynn Warner, Brianna Kiphuth, Darla O'Flanagan and Maryann Barfknecht.

Each one brings unique gifts to our ministry to children. Together, they will create a safe, joyful, and Christ-centered environment where our children can learn, worship, and thrive. God's blessings and strength on this team as they pour into our children, into the next generation of believers, with love and purpose.

Prayer Shawl

Prayer Shawl gathering is on **Monday, July 28 at 1:00** in the church fellowship hall. If you like to knit, crochet and/or VISIT, please join us! Any questions, please contact Dianne McLain.