



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—June 24

This Sunday, June 26, 9:00 am

on Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook Page:

NEW SERIES! *Second Chances: Stories of Restoration and Redemption*

Human beings aren't perfect. We make mistakes, we mess up, and we hurt ourselves and others. We sometimes end up feeling unlovable, broken and worthless - like a piece of discarded furniture set out on the curb. But just like that ugly sofa, all we need is for someone to see our potential and give us a second chance. 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.

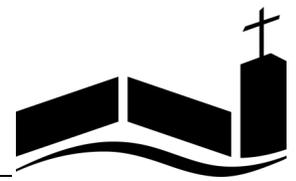


Divorced Five Times—June 26

Jesus had a very surprising encounter with a woman at a well, surprising because the conversation never should have happened. Even more surprising, however, was that instead of condemning the woman for her past, Jesus focused on offering her the life of his living water. Pastor Bill shares this first message in our "Second Chances" series, and you will be blessed by hearing a personal story from Brian Gilson, as well. At the end of worship, the Farwicks will share a short video about their commitment to composting waste. Stick around for that as well!

In-Person Worship Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent survey. There were 123 survey respondents. The comments you offered reflect a congregation with diverse experiences, needs, and desires- much like the nation in which we live. The overwhelming majority of respondents (74%) are not yet ready to resume in-person worship in the BUMC sanctuary, even with the stringent precautions outlined. Eight respondents indicated they were unable to access the services online (six of these persons were surveyed via telephone). The most common response (32%) was that respondents were "unsure" of when they would be ready. On the other hand, fully 89% said they would feel safer and would consider participating in an outdoor worship event. Also of note was that the majority of respondents (75%) reported they would continue to worship online to some extent even after in-person worship continues, either periodically (60%) or exclusively (14%). Your responses point to the need to continue to invest in our online worship, even as we formulate plans for when and how we begin to worship in-person. They also suggest an interest in further trials of outdoor prayer and worship events. Our worship planners will take your feedback to heart and continue to explore new ways to navigate our journey toward a return to in-person worship.



Other Ministry Updates

Wednesday Evening “Praise and Prayer” Gatherings Start July 8 at 7:00 pm

Let's get together outdoors as a first step to re-gathering! Starting July 8 we will have a series of Wednesday evening outdoor “praise and prayer” events (weather permitting). Bring your face masks, blanket or lawn chairs (or folding chairs will be available), and we'll spread out on the lawn to safely physical distance.

On **July 15** we will hold a Zoom Prayer service again, either in that time slot or following at 7:30 pm. Watch for details!

Learning about Racism

The Adult Discipleship team encourages you to engage in learning more about racism and our role in changing things as followers of Christ. Consider some of the following:

1. **A Discussion on Racism** will be led by the Adult Discipleship Team in conjunction with the BUMC Wednesday evening service on **Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 p.m.**
2. **Would you consider leading this study? - Be the Bridge** by Latasha Morrison- six-week course
3. **Here are some online resources:**
 - **Service on Racism** – www.umc.org - 1 hour, including Bishop Ough and others
 - **Holy Post – Race in America** by Phil Vischer – You Tube
 - **Dismantling Racism** – Wednesday, July 1, Noon Town Hall meeting – www.umc.org/endoracism
4. **There are also many books on the topic of Racism.** We recommend:
 - *Tears We Cannot Stop* (Michael Eric Dyson)
 - *Just Mercy*
 - *White Fragility*
 - *The Color of Compromise*
 - *So You Want to Talk About Race*
 - *How to be an Anti-Racist*
 - *Me and White Supremacy*
 - *The New Jim Crow*
 - *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race*
 - *Between the World and Me*

Share a Video!

It's been great having so many of our church family show up in worship via videos! Doesn't it help us feel connected? Perhaps it's your turn! We'd love to get your short video clips in the following categories:

1. A simple “**Welcome to Worship**” greeting
2. A “**Second Chance**” story—Our next worship series is about restoration and redemption though getting a “second chance.” Do you have a short story to tell?
3. A **ministry video**—If you've been working at the food shelf, helping neighbors, or doing a creation care project during the pandemic when our ministry options are so limited, we'd like to hear about it! Take a short hands-on video to share and inspire others.

Laurie's Retirement

Laurie has announced her retirement at the end of August. It's a little sooner than expected in order to safely maintain her family's health and help with the demands of the apple orchard. If you would like to read the letter she has shared with ministry leaders, it is attached. This has been a difficult decision during uncertain times, so pray for her family as well as our church leaders as transitions are made. Your offers to help at church where you can are also welcome!

Books Needed for Our Little Library

Our church's Little Library by the playground continues to be used regularly, and we could use more children's books. Small numbers of book donations can go right in the library, but larger amounts can be dropped off at church for later use. Arrange an appointment to drop off.

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

June 28 **9:00 am Online Worship on Facebook**

June 30 **Finance Team Meeting** online
July 5 **9:00 am Online Worship**