



# So All May Know Joy

## BUMC Weekly Connection—June 5, 2020

This Sunday, June 7, 9:00 am

on Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook Page:



### Please Pass the Salt

The salt-rich diet of processed American food and our high blood pressure isn't exactly what Jesus had in mind when he told us that we are "the salt of the earth." The church, our communities, and the world can become saltier places if we seek to live out our love relationship with God, sharing that love with our neighbors in the name of Christ. Pastor Bill shares an message which will inspire us to "pass the salt!"

### Online Communion

In this extreme time of physical separation, it's more important than ever to gather through God's Spirit in the presence of Christ to be the church. Therefore we will be once again celebrating Holy Communion online as we navigate new ways of being the church and attending to our need to commune with God during this pandemic. You're encouraged to find some bread or crackers and juice or water as suitable symbols you can use to represent the Body and Blood of Jesus for our communion celebration.



### Summer Blessing and Sunday School Teacher Greeting This Sunday!

Sunday School classes wrapped up for the year, but we encourage you to have your kids tune in to worship this Sunday to see a special greeting from their Sunday School teachers, and to receive a Summer Blessing for children.

### Ways to Give Your Tithes and Offerings

The strength of our church grows when each faithful person, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit, shares their talents, spiritual gifts, passions, and wealth for the common good of building up the Body of Christ for ministry to all the world. You and your gifts really matter! There are several different 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 eat up a portion of your gift, however.



## Other Ministry Updates

### Message from Pastor Bill

Sisters and brothers in Christ, is there anything that hasn't been turned on its head over these past months? Our plans, schedules, ways of working, worshipping, and shopping - everything has changed and is continuing to change, with a very real sense that things will never return to the ways things were.

And yet, some of the change will be for the good. There are many things that I hope will never return to the status quo. There is real hope that out of our current pain and chaos our country could start to see more significant conversation and change regarding the ways the color of our skin unfairly influences our opportunities and even our basic civil rights. No matter what your political leanings are, I hope that as followers of Jesus we can all agree that our mandate to love our neighbor runs deep and wide, far beyond a sign in the church yard that reads "All are welcome!" Whether you support or participated in any of the recent demonstration or not, are you willing to commit to set aside a part of your time, energy, and attention in the coming year to seriously lean into the cause of racial justice?

As I have said recently, our stewardship of the earth includes caring for all life on it, and most especially those brothers and sisters who are left out or hurting. The coming weeks and months will test us as Christians and as a church in many ways, but if we hold fast to the example of Christ, I know that we can do this. Now is the right time for us to start sharing ideas about how to bring this national conversation home to Buffalo and BUMC, before we get distracted once again by the winds of the news cycle. I welcome any and all ideas for how to have that conversation, and how to make sure that it doesn't remain only a conversation, but is translated into meaningful action.

### Next Prayer Gathering Wed. June 17

Watch for details on our next Prayer Gathering Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 pm. Call in or Zoom from home OR the church parking lot.

### Update on Bishop's Regathering Plan

We are still in the "orange" phase in following Bishop Ough's Regathering Plan for our Minnesota UM churches. Minnesota has not yet seen the consistent decreases in percent positive COVID diagnoses, hospitalizations, or deaths that are required for us to begin to relax our precautions. It's so hard to remain vigilant, but please do so for the sake of those who are most vulnerable to this virus. Access to the church office remains available by appointment and the church telephone will continue to be answered (remotely) during business hours. All ministry gatherings should take place either online or outdoors with masks and appropriate physical distancing. Thanks for demonstrating your love of neighbor in these ways!

### Become a Hopeful Earthkeeper

We will continue the important work of creation care with a BUMC EarthKeepers group. Let us know which of the following ways you might be involved:



- receive information on creation care activities or resources.
- be part of the **BUMC Hopeful EarthKeepers to plan and promote local activities.** (We will create a video on planting rain gardens in June.)
- go through **EarthKeepers Online Training this summer**—six Thursday sessions starting **this Thursday, June 11**, and continuing June 25; July 9 & 23; and August 6 & 20 from 7:00-8:30 pm each session.

If you are interested in any of these levels of participation, please contact Craig Lilja (763-682-1994) or Laurie Schroeder at church.

### This Week in Ministry

June 7	9:00 am Online Worship
June 9	7:00 pm Leadership Team on Zoom
June 14	9:00 am Online Worship on Facebook with Curtis Rieck and the senior high youth
June 17	7:30 pm <b>Prayer Gathering</b> on Zoom from home or church parking lot

