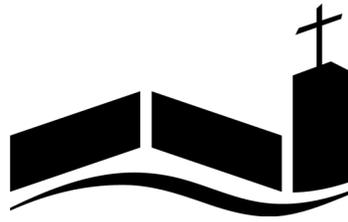


**BUFFALO
UNITED METHODIST**



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection March 19, 2020

News and circumstances seem to be changing hour by hour, so where do we begin in communicating with you? Perhaps by reminding you that while we live in uncertain times, we trust in a merciful God to get us through! Pray and live with hopefulness! And let's all use this time to learn and grow in ways we never imagined- to finish up those projects around the house, to play board games like in the old days, to journal or write memoirs, to clean that closet, to get out in nature, to exercise, to read those books you've been meaning to get to, to write letters and reconnect in non-face-to-face ways. Let's renew our faith by spending more time in prayer, reading our Bibles and in meditation.

But let's be honest, we all need to do whatever we can to simply get through this time of crisis. And though we won't be gathering for worship in person here at church, we will still worship and connect online. We will still be the church, for each other and for the community. We can still encourage one another through phone calls and notes, we can deliver food or medication for those who can't or shouldn't go out. The way we get through this is by being apart physically, but together in spirit, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

BUMC Weekly Connection

Since we won't have bulletins to communicate with you, we are going start publishing these "BUMC Weekly Connections" on our website, Facebook and through email with the BUMC Weekly Update. If we don't have your email address, please let us know. Today's version is also being mailed to make sure everyone has the information. If you would like a mailed copy each week, let Michelle know in the church office! Though things continue to evolve, here are the many things we want you to know as of today:

Online Worship Only

Buffalo UMC is suspending all in-person worship indefinitely, but we will continue to worship via Facebook Live at 9:00 am each Sunday morning. **(Note the time change to 9:00 am!)** The live-stream is very engaging, as you are able to comment online, both during and after the service, as well as see the comments of others. If you miss it live, you can watch the video of the live stream on both the BUMC Facebook page and on our church website shortly after the conclusion of each live stream. If you don't have a Facebook account, you may still be able to view the video through the link on the church website. We are exploring how to improve the quality of the broadcasts as well as how to share worship with those who have no Internet access.

Lent Activities

Though there will be no Lenten dinners or in-person Lenten studies at this time, join us on Facebook for a short livestream Lenten Devotional on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. If you missed the March 18 one, it is still available for viewing! We encourage you to continue using our Lenten meditation "Be Still and Know That I Am God," now posted on our website if you need it.

Youth, Confirmation and Sunday School

Curtis will communicate with all youth and families about the online games and activities for Wednesday evenings. **Confirmation classes begin online via Zoom on Wednesday, March 25 at 6 pm.** Worship note forms are available on the website. Sunday School staff are looking at way to stay connected with the kids and for a virtual "Coffee Talk." Watch your email for details!

Prayer Ministries

Good news!! Our prayer ministries continue uninterrupted! Please continue to pray as the Spirit leads you, and you may share prayer needs and answered prayer via the office email address, Facebook, or during our Facebook live worship streams. Sign up for the prayer chain any time.

Care Ministry

Though we can't gather together, we can continue to care for one another! We're hoping to set up a calling ministry to check in with one another, especially those who live alone or may need help with groceries etc. You don't need to be part of our Congregational Care team to go ahead and check in on people by phone or send a note of encouragement. Just go ahead and do it! If you would like to be one of our designated callers, please let Laurie or Michelle know. If you are willing to be a delivery person of a frozen meal, prescription, or groceries for someone in need, please also let the church office know.

Giving Ministry

The needs of the world are greater during a crisis like the current one. Please remember to support the work of BUMC through your regular giving. We offer a monthly electronic giving option through the church office. You may also choose to use your regular bank bill pay system or mail your check to the church. We encourage you to bring cash offerings directly to the church office rather than mailing. We will update you relief efforts during the pandemic as we receive them.

Ministry Team Meetings

The Bishop has asked us to cancel all nonessential in-person meetings indefinitely. However, recognizing that the church needs to continue being the church, now more than ever, Ministry Team leaders are encouraged to explore what can and needs to happen via telephone, Skype, Zoom, Facebook live, or other similar electronic media.

Office Hours

We currently intend to maintain regular office hours, though staff will periodically work from home. Please exercise healthy distance and hygiene habits when visiting the church office.

General Conference Postponed

The General (Global) Conference scheduled in Minneapolis for May 5-15 has been postponed. See the Minnesota Annual Conference website for more information.

Office Hours: (Closed Mondays)
Tuesday-Thursday – 9 am to 3 pm;
Friday – 9 am to 1 pm
Phone: 763-682-3538
E-Mail: Office@BuffaloUMC.com
Website: www.BuffaloUMC.org



Find us on Facebook

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Bill Reinhart *PastorBill@buffaloumc.com*

Lay Associate Minister

Laurie Schroeder *Laurie@buffaloumc.com*

Youth Coordinator

Curtis R. Rieck *Curtis@buffaloumc.com*

Children's Coordinator

Debra Bishop *Debbie@buffaloumc.com*

Administrative Assistant

Michelle Jones *Office@buffaloumc.com*

Bookkeeper

Patty Steer *Patty@buffaloumc.com*

Custodian

Ryan Highberg

Chancel Chimes Director

Jill Starr

Nursery Attendant

Angie Masteller

Leadership Team Members

Jim Norrix, Member at Large 763-263-5499

Larry Frink, Member at Large 218-398-1066

Kris Uter, Member at Large 952-201-5211

Peter Bedker, Lay Leader 763-276-7435

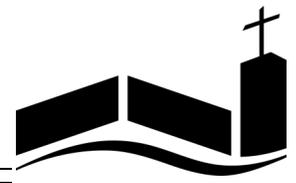
Dexter Lehman, Treasurer 763-229-0335

Martyn Dibben, Finance Chair 763-684-0527

Jeremy Carlson, Property Chair 612-695-8977

Gail Hurley, Staff Parish Chair 612-559-9659

Lori Goth, Faith Formation Rep 763-515-3749



Other Ministry Updates



Gospel of Mark Focus This Lent

Our Sunday worship in Lent continues to focus on the stories of Jesus and his ministry, as told in the Gospel of Mark. We'll explore his many different roles as prophet, teacher, healer, friend and savior to help answer the question "Who is this Man?" Join us for online worship at 9:00 am Sundays on our Buffalo United Methodist Church Facebook page! We still have optional study books on The Gospel of Mark available for \$14.

Food Shelves Need Help!



March is FoodShare Month, but now more than ever our food shelves need donations and volunteers. Cash donations are greatly appreciated. They will take all donations of food and personal care items, but are especially looking for

kid-friendly foods and snacks. Though you can still drop items off at church, we encourage you to consider dropping items directly at your local food shelf. Volunteer information to work at the Buffalo shelf can be found on their website. <https://buffalofoodshelf.com/get-involved/volunteer-sign-up/>

Blood Drive March 20

The blood bank supplies are dangerously low, so if you are able to donate, it is a true gift to the community. The Red Cross will be having a Blood Drive **at Buffalo Presbyterian Church on Friday March 20 from 8 am-2 pm.** There are other blood drives going on as well so check online for local listings.

Live Stream Tech Help Sought

If you have experience with live-streaming events and/or best equipment for recording our services, please talk to Pastor Bill or Laurie.

Help Make Our Easter Garden Happen

Our beautiful, Easter Resurrection Garden on **April 12** only happens with your generous donation of flowers! Order forms are found in the pew racks and must be placed by **Sunday, March 22.** Place the form and payment in the offering basket. Your flower or cash donation may be given in honor or in memory of someone if you wish. Flowers may be taken home after worship on April 19.

UMCOR Sunday Donations

This Sunday, March 22 was supposed to be when we receive a special offering for UMCOR to support the administrative costs of our United Methodist Committee on Relief, which provides disaster relief teams and aid around the world. Through UMCOR we can all make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upended by storms, wars, climate change, and displacement, impacting lives and offering extravagant grace in the name of Christ. Since we aren't gathering, you can still send UMCOR donations to church or go to the UMCOR website and give directly.

Women's Retreat Uncertain

Given the ever-changing situation, we don't know whether the women's retreat will happen or not April 24-26. If you are interested, however, we encourage you to go ahead and register. We will hold checks until we know for sure it is happening. The theme is *Caring for Creation and for Ourselves* at Camp Koinonia in South Haven. Registration forms are now available on the bulletin board! We have room for 30 BUMC women, family and friends. Sign up now to save your spot!

