



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—March 21 **This Sunday, March 23 @ 9:00**

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

New Sermon Series— Are We There Yet?

Do you ever feel like if you just make it over the next hurdle or reach your next goal that you will have finally arrived in life? Many people do, including our Biblical friends, but guess what? That's called the arrival fallacy, and it can keep us feeling disappointed and unhappy when we get to the "next thing" and find we still haven't arrived at our hoped-for destination. We are still unfailingly human, flawed, broken. This Lent, let us learn to savor our uniquely human journey without the pressure of arrival, as we reconnect with the God of Jesus Christ who leads us in the way, providing sustenance, meaning, and hope through all our ups and downs.



This Sunday — Who's Your Hope? | 1 Samuel 8

When we are dissatisfied, the idea of a strong new leader can seem like our only hope to get where we want to go. But the story of the Israelite people and their demand for a king is a powerful reminder that leaders are all too human and that we must place our ultimate hope in God, the true King.

Scripture Reading | 1 Samuel: 8:1-10, 19-22 (NIV)

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights." Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king.

Next Sunday— No Going Back | Ezra 3:10-13

Sometimes we think that everything will be fine if we can just go back to the way things were, but the present will never be the past. The good news is that God is in what was, what is, and what will be.



Other Ministry Updates

March 23 9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Fellowship
10:00 am Education Hour
March 24 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl Meeting
March 25 6:30 pm Finance Team Meeting
March 26 6:00 pm Lenten Meal-Ham & Cheese Sliders
6:30 pm Children's Lenten Service
6:35 pm Lenten Series
7:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
March 30 9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Fellowship
No Sunday School
10:30 am Congregational Care Team

DID YOU KNOW? **Did You Know?** Did you know that volunteers mow the church lawn approximately 25 times over the summer saving the church a significant amount of money each year!

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

We will hold a brief worship service each **Wednesday** night at **6:35pm** (come for dinner first at **6:00pm**) using the book *The Risen King: 40 Devotions for Easter* by C.H. Spurgeon. Join us as we listen to stories, reflections and prayers. Some copies will be available to purchase for \$11 or you can order from Amazon.

While the adults are in the sanctuary, Children's Ministry will host a Lenten Series for kids 5-12.

From the Finance Team

Flourishing Finances: February was a month of abundant blessings, as our church's income soared to \$28,973. Thanks to careful stewardship, our expenses were kept at \$24,128, leading to a remarkable net income of \$4,632. Overall, the financial data for 2025 reveals a strong and positive trend, highlighting the faithful contributions and careful management that have blessed our church. We are filled with gratitude and excitement for the opportunities ahead as we work together to fulfill our mission and make a meaningful impact.

Sunday School News

- There will not be Sunday School on **March 30** because of Spring Break

Help Make Our Easter Garden Happen

Extra Easter Garden flowers are available for purchase. If you'd like to order one, contact Laurie or Michelle. For those interested in setting up the Easter Garden or loaning a green plant from April 18-27, see Laurie.



2025 Lenten Breakthrough Prayer

Father of compassion, during this season of Lent, we cry out for a breakthrough in our hearts and minds, in our lives and in Buffalo United Methodist Church. You have promised, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." (Ez 36:26) Amid our daily struggles, we often grow tired and impatient on our journey with Christ toward the cross. We ask, "Are we there yet?" By your Spirit give us a new heart! Work within us, grant us patience, courage and guidance. By your mercy and grace, lead us deeper in becoming more like your Son in newness of life. Now, forever, and always, in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.



March is Minnesota Food Share Month

The 44th March campaign for 2025 runs from **March 1–April 6**. Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, brings together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of nearly 300 food shelves. Please consider donating food, personal care items, or money. The most needed items currently are canned goods, pasta, and cooking essentials. Place items in the red wagon outside of the church office. Let's fill the wagon! Money can be given through the church by designating "Food Share" in your check memo or donate online at [Buffalo Food Shelf](#).