



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—March 6

Worship: Sunday, March 8 @ 9:00 am

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

This Sunday - It's Not Too Late to Be Forgiven | Luke 15:11-32

Repentance is not about earning forgiveness but about returning home to a God whose embrace restores belonging and makes change possible.



Scripture Reading | Luke 15:11-32

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Next Sunday - It's Not Too Late to Take Ownership | Acts 9:1-22

Repentance and transformation require taking ownership of our lives, accepting God's grace, and leaning on others as God calls us into new life.



Other Ministry Updates

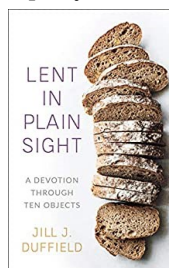
- March 8** 9:00 am Worship with Handbells
 10:00 am Education Hour
 10:00 am Fellowship
 10:30 am Game Day
- March 10** 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting
- March 11** 6:00 pm Lenten Meal- Hotdishes
 6:30 pm Lenten Service
 7:15 pm Handbells
- March 12** 12:00 pm Pie with the Pastor
- March 15** 9:00 am Worship—UMCOR Sunday
 10:00 am Education Hour
 10:00 am Fellowship

Update on Pastor Amy

Pastor Amy would like to thank everyone for the prayers and support she has received over the past two weeks. As many of you may know, she slipped on the ice at the end of January and slid under her car. However, the full extent of the pain did not surface until Monday, February 23. Last week she met with her primary care doctor and is scheduled for two MRIs on March 13—one for her neck and one for her shoulder. These tests will help determine the next steps in her recovery. Pastor Amy and the Chair of the SPRC, Lori Olson, have been in contact with CS Becky Jo Messenbrink to discuss potential Medical Leave if surgery is required. Until the MRIs are completed and a recovery plan is in place, Pastor Amy will be working from home. She remains in daily contact with church staff, Chair of the Leadership Team and the Chair of the SPRC and she is available for pastoral care by phone. In the meantime, she has been prescribed two pain medications that prevent her from driving while taking them. Due to the pain medications, she plans to attend the Sunday service on March 8 but will not be leading or preaching. Please continue to keep Pastor Amy in your prayers.

Lent in Plain Sight

God often works through the ordinary. This Lent, we'll use *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield to explore everyday objects from Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and



discover God's presence in unexpected places. Join us Wednesdays from 6:00–7:15 p.m. through March 25 for a shared meal and worship with Scripture, prayer, reflection, and conversation. Books are available in the entry for \$11.

Help Make Our Easter Garden Happen

Our beautiful, Easter Resurrection Garden on **April 5th** only happens with your generous donation of flowers! Your flower or cash donation may be given in honor or in memory of someone if you wish. Flowers will be available for pick up after the service on **April 12**. Order forms are in the chairs and are **due by March 22**.



Children

This Sunday we will continue our God Is Faithful unit, learning about miracles and wonders. Kids will discover how God sent the Holy Spirit to work in miraculous ways through Bible stories and in their own lives.

Confirmation

Confirmation students, families, and faith partners will meet this Sunday with the confirmation team to review expectations and check in. Next Sunday, students will begin Lesson 11, The Connection, learning about the structure of the United Methodist Church.

Thank You!



- Thank you for paying 100% apportionments in 2025! We lead the way with over 94% of apportionments giving through our local churches. Apportionment giving is a powerful way for us to work together across Minnesota and across our United Methodist connection to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. – *Becky Jo Messenbrink, Headwaters District, Minnesota Annual Conference*



Other Ministry Updates

Chili Contest Winner

Congratulations to our Annual Chili Contest Champion, Robin Anderson! A big thank you to everyone who cooked, tasted, and voted—making this year’s contest a fun and flavorful event. And a special congratulations to our final winner, Robin for creating the chili that rose above the rest. Well done, and thanks for bringing the heat!

Award Winning Chili Recipe by Robin TURKEY TACO CHILI

Ingredients

- 16 oz lean ground turkey
- ½ small yellow onion, chopped
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 pkg (1-oz) taco seasoning mix (use more or less – depends on your taste)
- 1 pkg (1-oz) ranch salad dressing mix
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 can (10-oz) diced tomatoes with green chiles (I used Mild Rotel)
- 1 can (15.5-oz) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15.5-oz) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (14-oz) corn kernels, drained

Directions

(You can make this in a Dutch Oven or Crockpot)

In a Dutch oven or frying pan, cook ground turkey until there is no pink. Drain any liquid.

Add onion, garlic, taco seasoning and ranch seasoning, stir together well.

Transfer mixture to a Crockpot if not using the Dutch oven. Add 3 cups broth, tomatoes, beans, and corn; add the remaining broth if you prefer thinner chili.

Dutch oven: Heat 20–30 minutes on medium to medium-high, stirring occasionally.

Crockpot: Heat on high for about 2 hours, stirring after 1 hour.

Serve with toppings like sour cream, shredded cheese, green onions, Fritos, tortilla chips, or corn muffins.

If chili is too watery, whisk some drained liquid with cornstarch, salt, and garlic powder to make a slurry, heat briefly, then stir back into the chili and continue cooking.



Wrapped in Love

BUMC supports adopted children and foster families at Wrapped in Love.

Donate new socks and underwear to help children feel seen and loved. **Men’s medium boxer briefs** are needed at this time. Place items in the marked box in the coat room. Cash donations are welcome—contact [Michelle](#) or [Rita Varner Otness](#) who will shop for you.

Daylight Saving Time This Saturday!

Remember to set your clocks ahead for Daylight Saving Time on Saturday, March 7! Spring ahead, or you’ll miss worship!



Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

BUMC is now serving as a food pantry in partnership with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors. This community-based nonprofit has stocked our coatroom with free meal kits to help improve food accessibility in Buffalo. The kits are available to those in need during regular office hours, Tues– Thurs. Each package includes shelf-stable ingredients designed to feed up to four people, requiring little or no additional items.



March is Minnesota Food Share Month

The 45th March campaign for 2026 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 red wagon! Money can be given through the church by designating “Food Share” in your check memo or note on your cash. You can also donate online at Buffalofoodshelf.com.