



So All May Know Joy

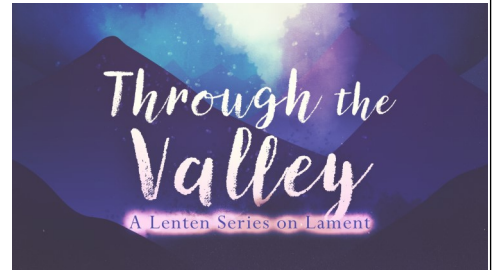
BUMC Weekly Connection—March 8

This Sunday, March 10 @ 9:00 am

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

Sermon Series—Through the Valley: A Lenten Series

Just as Jesus wandered in the wilderness for forty days, so too can we feel like we are wandering in the wilderness, as we face hardships, grief, temptations, and injustices. This Lent, we will discover what it means to wander these parts of life in honesty with God through the practice of lament. We will learn how crying out to God in our need can help us to fully embrace what it means to be human beings held and loved by a God we can trust. We will learn that even through the darkest valleys, Jesus both goes ahead of us and walks with us.



This Sunday — Being Honest in Community | Esther 4:1-5

When we recognize or experience injustice, crying out together in words and actions can move us closer to God's vision for humanity and stir us to make change.

Scripture Reading | Esther 4:1-5

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why.

Next Week — Honesty Leads to Hope | Lamentations 3:19-24

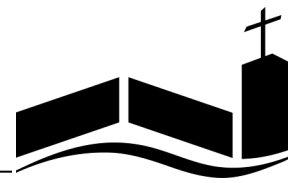
In a world of "either/or," lament can bring us to a more honest place of "both/and." We can both reckon with the full weight of our sorrows and experience hope in our faithful, loving God.



Sunday Fellowship Check out the coffee, treats and great conversation after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee and Worship

The two best things on Sunday morning are coffee and worship, and so we welcome you to bring your coffee in to the sanctuary. However, in order to preserve our beautiful space, we ask that you bring a covered coffee cup from home when bringing your cup into worship.

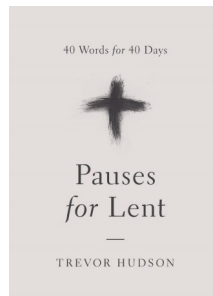


Other Ministry Updates

- March 10 9:00 am** Worship with Handbells
10:00 am Fellowship
10:00 am Education Hour
- March 12 7:00 pm** Leadership Team Meeting
- March 13 6:00 pm** Lenten Meal
6:35 pm Lent Service
6:35 pm Lenten Series for kids
- March 17 9:00 am** Worship
10:00 am Fellowship
10:00 am Education Hour
10:00 am Congregational Care Team

Lent Series

We will be having Wed. night services, with a congregational supper at **6:00** and then a short service from **6:35-7:15**. The book we will be reading from is called *Pauses for Lent – 40 Words for 40 Days*. Join us each Wed as we hear readings, reflect on our journey, and sing our way to the cross.



Children's Ministry will continue our tradition of hosting a Lenten Series for kids and youth ages 3+. We are planning some awesome activities to help our kids experience the walk to the cross as well each **Wednesday** evening from approximately **6:35 - 7:15pm**. Feel free to reach out to [Andrea](#) directly with any questions!



Help Make Our Easter Garden Happen

Please place your order by Sunday. Our beautiful, Easter

Resurrection Garden on **March 31** 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 7**. You will find order forms in the back of the chairs.

Easter

Celebrate Easter in our Resurrection Garden at either our Contemporary Worship Service at **9:00 am** or Traditional Worship Service **10:30 am** on **March 31**.

March is Minnesota Food Share Month:

The 43rd March campaign for 2024 runs from **February 26—April 6**. Any food or monetary donations made during this time will be complimented with a percentage of dollars from the “food fund.” The food fund is funded by local corporations, foundations, businesses, and individuals, as part of Minnesota FoodShare. Please consider donating food, personal care items,



or money. The most needed items are currently canned fruit, canned tuna or chicken, flour, cereal, ketchup, personal care items, or any of your favorite snacks. Place items in the red wagon outside of the church office. Let's repeatedly fill the wagon! Money can be given through the church by designating “food shelf” in your check memo or note on your cash. You can also donate on line at Buffalofoodshelf.com They are always looking for volunteers also.

Birthday Bags

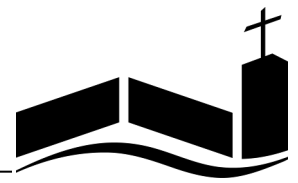
In conjunction with the Buffalo Food Shelf and food share month, BUMC Sunday School is hosting a drive for birthday bags through **3/22**. We are looking to fill 50 birthday bags and will have a donation drive for the following items: cake mixes, frosting, candles, small cake plates or napkins. We are also looking for small to medium gift bags (these can be slightly used!) to put the following items in. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please label accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact [Andrea](#).



Daylight Saving Time This Saturday!

Remember to set your clocks ahead for Daylight Saving Time on **Saturday, March 9!** Spring ahead, or you'll miss worship!





Other Ministry Updates

UMCOR Sunday March 10



On Sunday we'll receive our annual UMCOR offering. Your gifts make

the global disaster relief work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) possible by covering staff and administration costs, allowing your donations throughout the year to go directly to the causes you request. UMCOR has an excellent reputation world-wide for being one of the first agencies to arrive and last to leave at the scene of disasters. With recent tornado and flood disasters on our minds, this is an opportunity to generously support those who are suffering.

Come meet Pastor Amy!

The Staff Parish Relations committee is organizing a meet & greet opportunity for everyone in the congregation to meet Pastor Amy. This event will allow Pastor Amy to meet people in a smaller setting. If you are interested, please meet Pastor Amy in the Conference Room at **10:15 am this Sunday, March 10.**

Summer Camp

Summer 2024 camp registration is open! Don't forget about the Early Bird incentive. Register before April 30 and receive a \$25 Camp Store Credit. Save even more by bringing a friend with you to camp. Click [HERE](#) for details. All BUMC youth who register for a UMC camp this summer will receive 50% off tuition, as well as all 1st-time adults. You will find additional information in the front entry.



Staff Spotlight (shining a light on our gifted BUMC staff)

Jill Starr, our Handbell Director, has been involved in Bells for 41 years. She took over from Gloriane Kobbe in 2006 and brought with her, Gerry, her talented husband of 45 years. Jill met Gerry as a Sophomore in Chisago lakes High School,



when the English teacher told her to sit next to the red headed guy, and the rest is history. Jill and Gerry live in Buffalo; they have 4 wonderful adult children (spouses equally great); 3 live in Minnesota and their oldest daughter lives in Kenya, Africa; and they have 11 grandchildren to help fill their calendar. Jill also co-directs with Sherilyn Burgdorf, the wRight Ringers Community Handbell Ensemble. Gerry taught in Rockford and their first landlords in Buffalo were Neil and Marilyn Hammer.

A little over a year ago, Jill retired from being a valuable and respected member of the Buffalo High School Music Department for 22 years, where her many musical talents (choir accompanist, office manager) included being "mom" for the bands, choirs and orchestras.

Jill, Gerry and family have traveled extensively both in the U.S. as well as abroad. Ireland is on their "bucket list" - anyone have any connections?

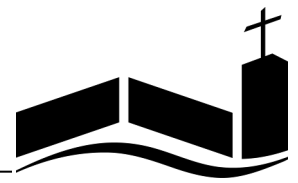
Jill says "Jesus grabbed a hold of me in high school and I am so glad he hasn't let go. He is my lord and Savior. Romans 8:29 is my life verse. 'And we know that all things work together for good to those that love God, to those who are called according to HIS purpose.'"

Bellfest 2024

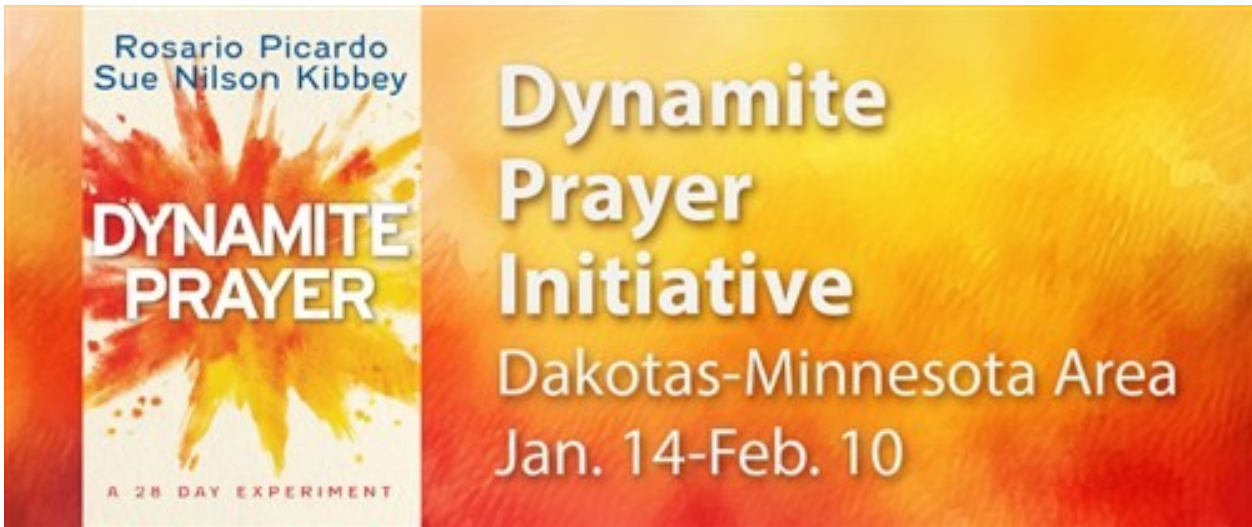
On **Saturday, March 2**, five members of BUMC Chancel Chimes joined 11 other ringers from Buffalo to participate in the 27th Annual Bellfest! It was hosted at North Heights Lutheran Church and was a great day of ringing with 120 other ringers. A young and upcoming guest conductor/clinician from New Jersey led the rehearsals and shared new ideas. The day concluded with a concert performance of the five mass pieces, as well as numbers by individual handbell choirs.

Blankets for Beds

Donate new or gently used blankets/linens by calling the church office for drop off or if you need them picked up, call Dianne McLain 763-682-2260. The need is still great.



From The Pastor



God moves through Dynamite Prayer

February 21, 2024

By: Rev. Amy Strom

United Methodists across the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area engaged in a Dynamite Prayer Initiative from Jan. 14-Feb. 10, focused around the book “*Dynamite Prayer*,” a 28-day devotional guidebook by Rev. Dr. Rosario Picardo and Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey.

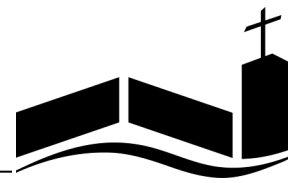
In a thoughtful reflection, Rev. Amy Strom shares the impact the Dynamite Prayer Initiative had on the congregation she serves: Buffalo UMC. It all started with noticing the Bishop’s invitation to participate in the Dynamite Prayer Initiative (Jan 14 – Feb 10). I had been looking for an excuse to re-ignite Breakthrough prayer in our church, but the tyranny of the urgent had been running me ragged. The Dynamite Prayer idea was good news to my ears. It is so helpful to be able to draft behind the energy of an initiative rather than crank something up 100% from scratch. I found one other prayer warrior, and we began discussing this new initiative.

In our conversations, Sheryl Lehman shared with me about Father Nash and his intercessory ministry during the Great Awakening in America. He would go to the next town the revival was headed to and pray, pray, pray. After his death, the revivals were never as powerful. We decided we needed to participate in the

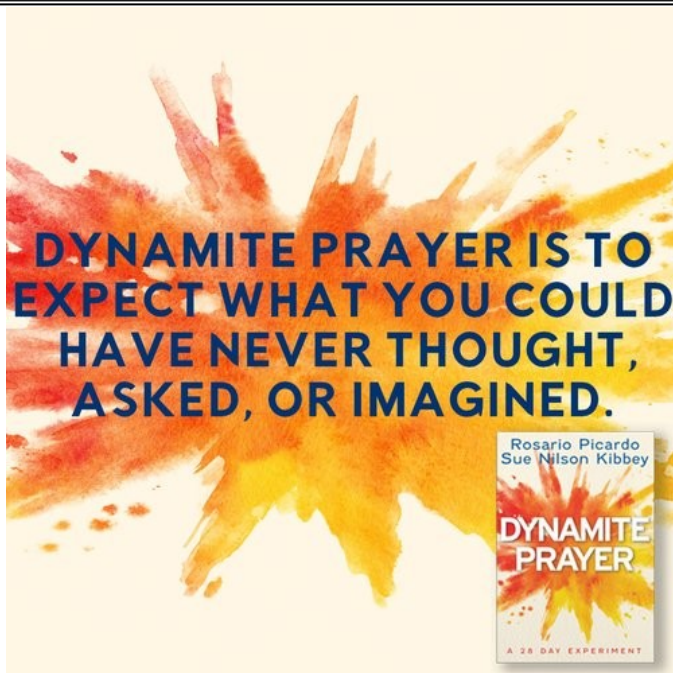
“Nash Dash!”—our own version of praying ahead for this initiative to find good soil and take root in our church. We quickly determined (God gave us wisdom) it would be wise to see if we could get a few other people previewing the materials with us. Then we could promote the devotional with confidence, knowing it was a good resource and worth our time. Within one week, we had a solid team of six people. Having such a good team in a week felt like God was helping us!

This group of women (Sheryl Lehman, Gayle Reed, Sally Peterson, Lori Olson, Erva Hance and myself) were willing to meet weekly to not only preview the devotional but also buy books using their own money, stand at the book table, share their experience of the devotional on two Sundays in church in January, write our own Dynamite Prayer together, lead two small groups that were launched during the initiative, and even continue to dream about new ways to bring prayer to our church after Lent. Amazing! A new ministry around prayer seemed in the birthing.

We encouraged people to pray our own Breakthrough prayer at 9:02 a.m. and 9:02 p.m. each day (or whatever worked for your schedule): **God who sees us, stir up this truth in our daily experience, “...the same power that the Father used to raise Jesus from the dead is**



From The Pastor



at work in us” (Eph 1:19-20). Break through, speak, show and inspire us so that we may follow where your Spirit is leading us next at BUMC. Amen.

One small indicator of the impact of the initiative: We purchased 10 copies of the Dynamite Prayer devotional and I would have been happy if 7 of the 10 sold. They ALL sold. The preview team encouraged me to purchase 10 more copies, which I was very hesitant to do. We all have copies of books for groups and classes on our bookshelves that didn't sell, right?

But I ordered 10 more copies and even added an extra copy I had purchased but no longer needed. I would have been fine if 3 or 4 of that batch sold. Instead, they ALL sold! Then Erva came up to me with a big smile on her face. She told me she had ordered 10 more copies! I couldn't help myself, “No!” I said dismayed. “That's way too many copies!” She smiled even bigger (that is so Erva). “Too late! I already ordered them.” She also assured me we could return any copies to Amazon that didn't sell. Again, they ALL sold!

We wrapped up our Dynamite Prayer small

groups on Tuesday, Feb. 13. On our last day we took time to finish the devotional, invite people to share about their experience, and pray for healing for a couple of people. Some wanted to continue meeting, so we will revisit what we might do together after Lent. More indicators God's Spirit has been at work over the last month as our church and staff have experienced and celebrated many positive things: participating in the Dynamite Prayer Initiative, welcoming 10 new members, greater unity amongst our children's and confirmation programming staff, a wonderful staff luncheon hosted by our SPRC team, our Fresh Expressions Team selecting their fresh expression to reach into our community, participating in the Rule of Christ training, and 10 people attended the latest Meet-and-Greet with their new pastor. I am convinced these things have been in a big way sparked and sustained by our prayers when we began praying for our church through the Dynamite Prayer Initiative. From my perspective, we've have been in the longest, most prolonged season of noticing God working in our midst that I have experienced at BUMC so far. The Dynamite Prayer Initiative has renewed our understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit, renewed our passion and faith in prayer, and helped us become more united. Many have commented they are sensing renewal happening. Thanks be to God!

