

So All May Know Joy

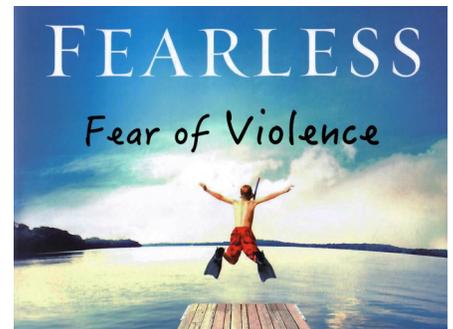
BUMC Weekly Connection—May 14

This Sunday, May 16 @ 9:00 am

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

This Sunday – Fear of Violence

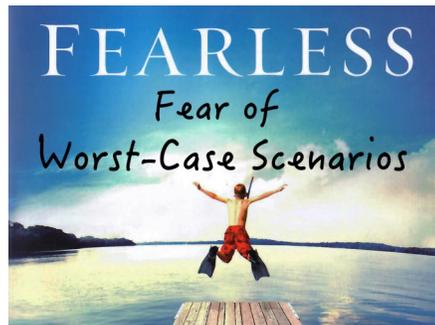
Not many in our time and place need fear violent persecution for our faith, but other acts of violence, especially the apparently the random acts of violence, can be especially frightening. Technology and education haven't managed to save us from the threat of harm at the hands of others. Scripture reassures us that we are much more than these physical bodies we wear, and of infinite value to God.



Sunday Scripture

I could go on and on, but I've run out of time. There are so many more—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets. . . . Through acts of faith, they toppled kingdoms, made justice work, took the promises for themselves. They were protected from lions, fires, and sword thrusts, turned disadvantage to advantage, won battles, routed alien armies. Women received their loved ones back from the dead. There were those who, under torture, refused to give in and go free, preferring something better: resurrection. Others braved abuse and whips, and, yes, chains and dungeons. We have stories of those who were stoned, sawed in two, murdered in cold blood; stories of vagrants wandering the earth in animal skins, homeless, friendless, powerless— the world didn't deserve them! —making their way as best they could on the cruel edges of the world.

Not one of these people, even though their lives of faith were exemplary, got their hands on what was promised. God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours. Hebrews 11:32-40 (MSG)



Next Sunday, May 23 – Fear of Worst-Case Scenarios

Are you good at imagining the very worst-possible outcome when you're afraid of an uncertain future? Even the worst outcomes usually aren't as irreversible as we imagine. The prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane shows us that holding fast to God is a much better strategy than fanning the flames of our fears.



Final virtual fellowship Hour at 10:30! At 10:30, join Dexter and Sheryl Lehman here: [Fellowship Zoom Link](#) Meeting ID: 732 4519 5738 Passcode: B0r4cn See the Regathering Plan Update for details on upcoming Fellowship times and formats.



Other Ministry Updates

Regathering Plan Update

The Governor surprised us all this week by announcing he intends to sign a new executive order on Friday! The details aren't available as we go to press. The Leadership Team will respond as quickly as possible to yesterday's announcement and issue an update. For now, please note the following good news on easing COVID precautions.



As of this Sunday, May 16, you'll notice that Bibles and hymnals have been returned to the sanctuary pews. You're welcome to use them as you like, and we'll continue projecting song lyrics on the screen. This will also be the last day we will host a Sunday Zoom fellowship hour.

Next Sunday, May 23, we'll have our fellowship time outdoors as part of the Walk for Hope.

Per the Governor's previous guidance, **by Sunday, May 30**, there will no longer be physical distancing requirements at church and no need to make reservations for worship or other regular ministry events. (**This MN requirement may be lifted sooner**, but we have not yet been able to see the language of the new Executive Order). There will be no more signs warning you to keep away from each other and we'll be able to gather together in the fellowship hall after church for conversation, although we won't yet be able to serve you treats or coffee. If you would like to eat or drink your own snacks during that time, you're asked to gather outside of the building.

The Governor was expected to remove the requirement for wearing face coverings indoors **no later than July 1**. It appears **this MN requirement may be lifted today**, but we're waiting to see the details of the executive order before revising our church policy. Please know that if you're someone who prefers to wear a mask and maintain physical distance, you're welcome to continue doing so regardless of State or church policy.

Join us for the 2021 Walk For Hope

Let's get together and show the world the power of walking the Extra Mile for students and families in Guatemala



on our church grounds on Sunday, May 23rd, at 10:15am! We are going to complete 5 laps around either the park or the parking lot (depending on what kind of surface you prefer walking on). What a great way to also celebrate the end of our Sunday School year and also the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit ignited a new missional movement among God's people. Weather permitting, everyone is invited to join us at church after worship for this fun missional challenge!

We are going to "**Make change**" for the families in Guatemala with our donations, so there are a few ways you can do that!

You can join our church team page [HERE](#). If you personally raise \$96, you will get a t-shirt!

1. There will be a table set up at the event so after you complete a lap, you can put some change in the jar as a donation.
2. You can make a donation directly on the team page above.
3. Do all of the above! After the walk we will have some pre-packaged snacks in the parking lot to celebrate being the feet of Christ! If you want to participate, but don't want to walk, that's ok too! You can cheer on the walkers!

Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator

Thank you to Maria Essen for serving as our interim Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator over this strange year of doing so many things remotely! Maria's last day on staff will be **Tuesday, May 18**. The SPRC will begin a search for a new Coordinator, with an emphasis on developing a strong return to in-person ministries for the fall. If you're interested in exploring the possibility of serving our families in this way, please contact Debbie Bishop, Ministry and Worship Coordinator. Debbie will also be the central point of contact for Children's ministries until the position is filled.



Other Ministry Updates

Summer Reading in the Park June 23

Our Summer Reading in the Park program kicks off on **June 23** and continues **each Wednesday from 9:30 – 10:30 am** through August 18. More details will be coming, but please spread the word about this great ministry in “The Park!!”

Minnesota STORM!

The UMC Youth unite for One day of serving across Minnesota so save the



Date for - July 17, 2021! Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to spend a day safely serving Jesus by serving others at various sites across Minnesota. We'll begin the day with devotions and Major Group time, spend the day serving with your church, do lunch, devos, and end the day with Chapel in the church parking lot. All projects will be outdoors, social distancing will be required, and large group gatherings will be held outdoors.

Coming Up in Ministry

- May 16 **9:00 am Worship Service**—In-person or online
- 10:30 am Virtual Sunday School** online for 2nd-6th grade
- 10:30 am Virtual Fellowship**
- 11:00 am Virtual Sunday School** online for Pre-1st, 7th & 8th grade
- 1:00 pm Book Group**—*Fearless*
- May 17 **6:30 pm Book Group**—*Fearless*
- May 18 **7:00 pm SPRC Meeting**
- May 23 **9:00 am Worship Service**—In-person or online
- 10:15 am Book Group**—*Fearless*
- 10:15 am** - All Sunday School students

are encouraged to participate in the Walk for Hope (no class). Everyone is welcome to walk.

Outdoor Worship Area Completed

Maverick Gilson has completed the new BUMC Outdoor Worship area and is excited to show you the completed project. Look at his video [HERE](#) on our website at the bottom of the page.

Free Items

The Senior High Youth are making some space in the Youth room to redecorate. The following items on the list are free to take. Please contact Curtis Rieck at Curits@buffaloumc.com if you are interested.

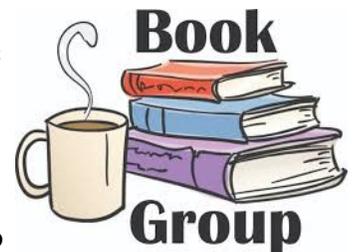


- Pool table with sticks/balls/rack
- Small table/desk
- 3 couches
- 4 chairs (2 are matching)
- Big TV

BUMC Book Group

NOTE: For May 16th, the Sunday book group will be meeting at church at 1 p.m. not 10:15 a.m.

We are reading the book *Fearless – Imagine Your Life Without Fear* by Max Lucado as our first book. After we have completed that book, we will as a group choose another. You can continue to be a part of the group book after book or come and go from the group as your schedule permits.



One group will be meeting by Zoom on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:15 p.m. The remaining meeting dates are May 17, 31. The Zoom group host is Sheryl Lehman. Please use this Zoom link [Click Here!](#) Meeting ID: 895 0658 4238 Passcode: 873897

The second group will be meeting in person in the church fellowship hall on Sunday May 16th at 1:00 pm and May 30 at 10:15 a.m. for one hour. That group is hosted by Rita Varner-Otness.

Sunday Worship also Livestreamed

Please remember that online worship is now livestreamed on You Tube, Facebook, and Twitch TV. You will find links to the livestreams on our website and below, or simply subscribe to our You Tube channel.

- [Twitch TV](#)
- [YouTube Live](#)
- [Facebook Live](#)