



The Joy Connection

May 2018

A monthly publication of Buffalo United Methodist Church

Worship Events

Sunday, May 6

The Bread of Life

John 6:5-13

John 6:30-40

Holy Communion

Sunday, May 13

The True Vine

John 15:1-8

John 15:9-17

Ministry of the Month:

Playground Ministries

Sunday, May 20

The Way, the Truth,

and the Life

Acts 2:1-7b

John 14:1-6, 15-17

Celebration Sunday!

Sunday, May 27

The Resurrection

and The Life

John 11:17, 21-27

Matthew 27:50-52

Memorial Sunday

Sunday Schedule

Joyful Praise Worship

8:15 am

Education & Fellowship Hour

9:20-10:20 am

Celebration Worship

10:30 am

Rites of Passage

There comes a point in our lives when we start looking back and asking, "How did time pass by so quickly?" Even though each day and week, each month and year, pass by at exactly the same pace, our subjective experience of time changes. The older we get, the faster it seems to fly by, and the more likely we are to forget our past experiences. That's always been true for God's people, which is why God constantly implores us in the Scriptures to remember, especially God's faithfulness and goodness!

One of the ways at BUMC that we remember where we've been and how God has blessed us is the observation of Faith Stepping Stones. From baptism to high school graduation, we intentionally mark the waypoints we pass in the Christian life of growing as disciples of Jesus, including learning how to read the Bible, how to pray, the meaning of Holy Communion, and the confirmation of our faith.

I was thinking about our Faith Stepping Stones recently as I was preparing to lead two recent funerals (more on that later). Surely there must be many stepping stones in our faith lives that happen after high school graduation. What about marriage? How about adoption? What about the many other significant things that happen after high school, over the course of our lifetimes, that shape our faith? What are some of the "faith stepping stones" that you'd name for your own life?

How about death, the penultimate faith stepping stone? While there are as many different circumstances that lead to the end of a life as there are people, death is a common denominator. Is this really something we can ever celebrate? The Bible tells us not only that all people must die, but also that all people will be raised from the dead, then to stand before Jesus to be judged. By faith, we believe that we will all be raised. By faith, we believe that we will be judged, not on the basis of our own merits, but on the saving work of Jesus. By faith, we believe that when we believe in our hearts and confess with our tongues that Jesus Christ is Lord, we will be saved. And that's the ultimate faith stepping stone - crossing over into an eternity with Jesus into the Kingdom of God where everything once broken will be made whole again. Surely that's worth celebrating, even (or maybe especially) in the midst of grief and sorrow.

Blessings,
Pastor Bill

Buffalo United Methodist Church

...serving people for Jesus Christ so that we all may know joy!

Grow in Love of God and Neighbor

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul & mind and
love your neighbors as yourself* *Matthew 22:37-40*

Introduce People to Jesus

Therefore, go and make disciples of all people...
Matthew 28:19-20

Heal a Broken World

The spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news to the poor
Luke 4:16-21

2018 Leadership Team

Pam Sieberg	763-682-4734	Member at Large/Lay Leader
Jim Norrix	763-263-5499	Member at Large
Larry Frink	218-398-1066	Member at Large
Paulette Moore	763-276-7435	Lay Leader
Dexter Lehman	763-229-0335	Treasurer
Tyson Kaldenberg	763-238-5023	Finance Team Chair
Dave Sieberg	763-682-4734	Property Team Chair
Al Sheldon	507-820-0542	Staff Parish Relations Chair
Kris Wurtzberger	763-438-0047	Recorder
Laurie Schroeder	763-682-3538	Lay Associate Minister
Bill Reinhart	763-682-3538	ex officio

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Bill Reinhart	<i>PastorBill@buffaloumc.com</i>
Lay Associate Minister	Laurie Schroeder	<i>Laurie@buffaloumc.com</i>
Family Ministries:		
Youth Coordinator	Curtis R. Rieck	<i>Curtis@buffaloumc.com</i>
Children's Coordinator	Debra Bishop	<i>Debbie@buffaloumc.com</i>
Nursery Attendant	Kaitlin Maass 9:15-10:30 Amy Fouquette 10:30	
Administrative Asst.	Michelle Jones	<i>Office@buffaloumc.com</i>
Bookkeeper	Patty Steer	<i>Patty@buffaloumc.com</i>
Preschool Director	Melissa Ungaro	<i>Melissa@buffaloumc.com</i>
Preschool Teacher	Christine Hartke	
Preschool Assistant	Jenny Hanson	
Chancel Chime Director	Jill Starr	
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The Joy Connection is a monthly publication for members and constituents of Buffalo United Methodist Church. Buffalo UMC is part of the **Minnesota Annual Conference** of The United Methodist Church.

✠ *Spiritual Growth*

Continuing with Breakthrough Prayer

It's been a while since we revisited the breakthrough prayer that launched us into this season of spiritual growth. Breakthrough prayer is any prayer that boldly invites God to make the changes in our lives, our church, and our world that lead to more people knowing the joy of following Jesus, even if those changes make us uncomfortable. You're invited to pray again our Spring Breakthrough Prayer from 2017:

Holy Spirit, break through and inspire the people of Buffalo United Methodist Church in new ways. Open my heart to receive and share the extraordinary love of God with a renewed vitality. I joyfully surrender to your Spirit. Amen.

A Gathering of Music & Praise

Hurray! We have re-scheduled the snowed-out "Gathering of Music & Praise" concerts, celebrating the magnificence of God and the power of the cross. Our Buffalo UMC musicians will present them on **Sunday, June 3 at 9:45 am & 3:00 pm**. We will actually have JUST ONE combined worship that day from 9:45-11:00 am. (No 8:15 service) The concert is truly worship (minus the sermon), and will be a beautiful reminder of the impact music has in worship.

Luckily, most of our musicians are available on June 3, though we're still confirming a few, but you will enjoy a wide variety of music with John Hagen, Marianne Kreitlow, Mike Knutson, Four or More Men, and Jesus Rocks, and join your voices with the Joyful Praise Team in glorifying God.

Our purpose has always been twofold – to invite the community and church family together for a time of praise, and to raise funds for a sound system upgrade. That is still the case, though the new sound system will already be installed by then. The leadership team has "loaned" us the remaining funds to move forward with the project, and pay them back after the concerts. Please invite friends and family to this wonderful event. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the concerts.

October Reach! Registration Open

The Bishop has invited us to join him at a special event called "Reach! New People, New Places, New Passion," to be held in Sioux Falls October 5-6. This will be a unique chance to learn from some of the leading women and men in innovative ways to recapture our passion for the mission of reaching people with the love of Jesus.

The timing of this event couldn't be better, as we continue to reinvigorate our outreach to new people and pray for God to continue to break through in new ways. You can get more information online at <https://ReachUMC.org>. Let's get a group together and go! Interested? Speak with Pastor Bill.

Worship

Upcoming Worship Events

- May 6** **Holy Communion**; handbells play at both services
- May 13** **Jesus Rocks** sing in worship
- May 20** **Celebration Sunday**- Mission Celebration & Love Offering, Education Volunteer Recognition; all children sing in worship
- May 27** **Memorial Recognition Sunday**; late service moves to 9:45 am

Summer Schedule Change May 27

Late service **moves to 9:45 am** on Memorial Sunday, May 27 and remains at that time through Labor Day weekend!

Chancel Chimes Play at Care Centers

You are welcome to join the Chancel Chimes and the residents as they play short concerts at local care centers. They will play at Annandale Care Center on **Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 pm**, then also at Parkview Care Center Chapel on **Wednesday, May 9 at 7 pm**. This is the last time they play before summer handbell hiatus.



Pentecost Celebration Sunday!

Don't miss a special Sunday of worship on **Sunday, May 20** as we celebrate the joy of the Holy Spirit's anointing of Christ's followers on Pentecost. It just so happens that Pentecost Sunday falls on our last day of the regular worship and education season. (We switch to our summer worship schedule on May 27 with late service moving to 9:45 am.)

We will celebrate the many ministries and missions of this congregation over the past year in Spirit-filled (and helium-filled) ways! Our children will sing at both services, and our education and ministry volunteers will be recognized. Gather with your church family on this very special and celebratory Sunday!

Annual Conference Love Offering

On **Sunday, May 20** we will receive the Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering, which Pastor Bill will carry to conference with him. If you wish to participate, you may bring an offering marked "Love Offering" or use an envelope in your pew. The offering is split with 65% going to Puerto Rico hurricane recovery trips; 20% to Park Avenue UMC Freedom Schools program; and 15% to NUMAS Haus, an outstate emergency shelter in New Ulm.

Parkview Service May 20

Pastor Bill would love to have you join him as he leads worship at Parkview Chapel on **Sunday, May 20 at 2:00 pm**. It's great to have folks there to visit with the residents and add their voices to our worship. Let him know if you can join him!

Memorial Sunday May 27

Each year on the Sunday of Memorial weekend, we acknowledge the memorial gifts to the church from the past year. These gifts remind us of loved ones lost, and also help support the ministries of the church in a variety of ways. We will lift up all memorial gifts received from May 2017-April 2018 in memory of these people:

Kaye Pramann	Brian Ewer
Helen Ann Johnson	Lorraine Kurtz
Judy Peterson	Willis Mellin
Mianna Varner	Martha Grimme
Pearl Heacock	Joe Kalway
Ian Smith	Bruce Schroeder

Easter Garden Thank You

Thank you to all who donated toward our Easter Garden, loaned green plants, and to the crew that helped create it! It was absolutely beautiful and your participation on any level is appreciated.

Worship Attendance

	Early	Late	Total
March 25	151	74	225
April 1	193	107	300
April 8	128	61	189
April 15		CANCELLED	
April 22	133	59	192

♥ *Ministry & Missions*

Party in the Park on May 19



Party in the Park
Saturday, May 19
11:00 - 2:00
Methodist City Park
Playground

It's only a few weeks until this exciting community event that we are hosting! We need you to participate on **May 19 from 11:00 - 2:00** when we host community families at a grand Party in the Park to officially dedicate our completed playground. Mayor Lachermeier will do the ribbon cutting at 11:30 and we'll thank representatives from local organizations for their company's donations.

A good party requires good hosts---and that's our congregation! Here's what you can do to make that happen. First, volunteer to help with set-up, parking, clean-up, games and activities. Second, pass the word by putting up flyers at work, your apartment building, or inviting friends and neighbors. Third, come have fun and help everyone feel welcome!

Gloria Farwick, Kris Dirks, Debbie Bishop and the MCCI Guest Connections Team have been hard at work getting ready for this wonderful day---put it on your calendar now so you don't miss out on the excitement and fun! Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors and anyone who wants to have a good time!

New Caring Ministry – Life Happens!

Life Happens is a new monthly ministry where we bring in guest speakers to share first-hand experiences on topics we all too often avoid, helping us know what to do and what to say to let people know we care. You are invited to join us on the **2nd Monday of each month from 7:15-8:15 pm**. We'll meet in the fellowship hall for a time of listening, learning, caring, and dessert. Come occasionally or every month, and bring a friend if you wish.

May Life Happens:

Divorce

Speaker: Tammy Jacobs

Monday, May 14, 2018

7:15-8:15 p.m.

UMW Bake Sale May 20

If you like to bake or prepare snacks, please bring some to church on **May 20** when you come to worship and place them on the table provided. If you like to eat treats, stop by the table, select some goodies to take home and leave a free-will donation. Money received will go towards the 2018 UMW Missions.

Men's "Fix It" Crew Can Help!

Have you been 'at a loss' trying to fix something, install something or move something heavy in your home? Our Men's Fellowship reminds you that we have several men who are available at no cost to assist you if you are unable to do the work yourself. Call Craig at 763-682-1994 if you could use some help.

Blankets for Beds

Spring is here and it's a great time to clean out your closets and donate gently used blankets, bedding and towels for local distribution. New items are also welcome. If you need items picked up at your home, call Dianne McLain at 763-682-2260.



Frozen Meals Available

Thanks to the wonderful Meals Ministry team there are several different meals to share! There is turkey soup and pea soup in the storeroom freezer for you to take to someone needing a meal or two. Ask for help if you can't find them, but PLEASE know they are there to be given out!! Who can you think of that would enjoy the blessing of a surprise meal?

UMW Rummage Sale August 16-18

Mark your calendar for another rummage sale sponsored by United Methodist Women, on **August 16-18**. Start now by going through your closets and storage units and save them for this sale - books, toys, children's clothing, small household items, crafts, needlework, holiday items, games, collectibles, miscellaneous items, etc. All proceeds will go toward UMW Missions.

Coffee Hour Offerings

Please continue to support our church budget and Guatemalan coffee farmers and their families as you're able, by finding the coffee hour fellowship basket on the side counter each Sunday. Thank you!

Fun & Fellowship

UM Women's Fellowship

The UM Women meet **Thursday, May 10 at 1:00 pm** with a theme of Spring Tea. All women of BUMC are welcome!

Diners Out Resumes May 24

It's time for another season of Diners Out! Everyone likes to eat out...especially with friends from church. If you are 65 or 95, please join us at Perkins Restaurant **Thursday, May 24 from 5:30-7:00 pm** for a time of food and fellowship. Stories can be shared if we have time. They may be original or e-mail, the funnier the better! Need a ride? Call Dave & Sara Gaeth (763-682-4964)

Children's Ministries & Sunday School

Sunday School Update

It's hard to believe another year of Sunday School is coming to an end. We encourage you to thank your children's SS teacher for loving your children and teaching them about Jesus' love.

Here are the May SS themes:

May 6	Rescheduled Prayer Partner Outreach
May 13	The Prodigal Son
May 20	Last Day of Sunday School



Sunday School Calendar

May 6	Rescheduled Outreach Activity
May 6	Jesus Rocks Rehearsal after SS
May 9	Jesus Rocks Rehearsal at 7:30 pm
May 13	Jesus Rocks sings at BOTH services
May 19	Party in the Park playground dedication/family fun day
May 20	Celebration Sunday - ALL children sing in worship for; SS "Banquet Table"

Celebration Sunday May 20

Sunday, May 20 is our Celebration Sunday and last day of Sunday School! Lots of things are happening, so plan to be here!

- **All SS children will sing at BOTH services** to honor SS teachers. They sing at the end of the 8:15 service (be here by 9:00!) and near the beginning of the 10:30 service (done by 10:45).
- **Bring a finger food** for our SS Banquet Table! (Due to some **severe** nut allergies, we ask that you bring a nut free snack. Parents, if your children have special food requirements, please bring something for them to enjoy!)

Jesus Rocks Team Sings May 13

Our Jesus Rocks Youth Praise Team will share music in worship on **Sunday, May 13** at both services. Don't forget, we rehearse on **Sunday, May 6** from 10:20-11:00 am AND on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:30!

Invite Someone to Party in the Park

Please use the flyer in this newsletter to invite someone to our Party in the Park on May 19!

Summer Camp Funds Available!

The Easter offering will again be used to pay for half of camping fees so our children and youth can experience a UM camp without financial strain, as fees can seem overwhelming. All children and youth attending Methodist camps will have half of the registration cost covered by BUMC. This is also a great way for us to support our UM camping programs at the same time!



Pick up a camping brochure at church or go online to <https://minnesotaumc.org/get-involved/camping-retreats/> to register for the camp of your choice. Then complete our BUMC camping form and return it to church so we can pay the other half. First-time adult campers at UM camps also qualify. Contact Debbie Bishop with questions.



Confirmation

Confirmation Schedule

Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm unless indicated

May 2	Combined Night with Sr. High
May 9	Faith Night – <i>Writing your Faith Creed – <u>Cooks Needed</u></i>
May 16	Focus Night – <i>The Holy Spirit Comes</i>
May 23	End of Year Picnic at Beebe Lake
June 15	Deadline for Creeds
June 30	Last Wesley Meal for Students
Aug 1	Mission/Service hours and worship notes are due

End of Year Picnic is May 23

The annual picnic for confirmation students, parents, partners, and senior high youth is at Beebe Lake Park on Co. Rd. 34 on **Wednesday, May 23, from 6:00-7:30 pm**. We ask 7th graders to bring salads or munchies and 8th graders to bring desserts. Faith partners are welcome to bring a dish to share if they wish. Senior high youth should bring their usual pizza money to provide the hot dogs and buns. Tableware provided. Meet at Beebe Lake.

Ministry Team Reports



MCCI Training Here on May 5

The Reverend Sue Kibbey (the MCCI coach who was here for our MCCI weekend last year) will return to the Twin Cities on **Saturday, May 5, 9 am to noon** to hold a regional training event at our church! The event is *Recruiting, Building and Deploying Unpaid Teams*. This is one of the prescribed MCCI trainings for our church and is for anyone interested in learning how to build more effective, joyful, and mission-minded ministry teams. Multiple UMC churches in the Twin Cities will be invited to send MCCI teams, so you can anticipate the added joy of sharing conversation and learning with other United Methodists.

MCCI Team Progress

This has been an amazing season of new growth for many of our MCCI teams. The **Confirmation Design Team** has selected a new curriculum and is busy making plans for next September! The **Rebranding Team** has developed a new logo for our church and is developing a style-guide that will help us to communicate a consistent and distinctive identity to the surrounding communities. The **Guest Connections Team** has completed the installation of the new response card holders in the sanctuary and has been laying the groundwork for the Party in The Park on May 19 (see separate article). The **Staff Responsibilities Review Team** has completed their review of all staff job descriptions and is working on a report of recommendations. The **Sunday Schedule Feasibility Team** has been assigned a coach and is preparing to begin their work. God continues to break through in new ways, here and in the communities and world we are in ministry with!

Finance Team Report

by Dexter Lehman

Happy May! With the April blizzard of 2018 behind us there are warmer days ahead. Financially we fell behind a bit in the first quarter. As of the end of March general expenses exceeded income by \$9360, but stay tuned, April income as of mid-month appears to be off to a good start. We are up to date with our apportionments thus far in 2018.

We ended up with \$6,175 for our special Easter offering. The Easter offering will be used to pay half of the camping fees for those attending United Methodist Camps. The remainder will be used to underwrite summer youth mission activities- We Can Be the Change and STORM camp (Service to others in relational ministry). Thank you for supporting these important ministries.

Sanctuary Sound System Upgrade

With the majority of money in hand for our sound system upgrade, the leadership team approved scheduling installation for April 30-May 5. We presumed we would raise the additional \$6,000 needed at the concerts on April 14-15 and in worship through April. Unfortunately with the snowstorm postponing the concerts, we have less money in hand than hoped, but are going ahead with the installation on faith, and with a "loan" from reserve funds.

Please help us fill this gap if you are able to make even a small donation toward this important worship and ministry aid. When we gather to worship on May 6, the new system will be in...but we'll still be learning to use it!

Now Hiring a Nursery Attendant

Kaiti Maass' last day as our nursery attendant is Sunday, May 6 so we are looking to hire someone to take her place. As we are in the hiring process, please let us know if you might be able to help cover Sunday, May 13 and/or Sunday, May 20 from 8:00-10:30, either paid or volunteer. If you or someone you know might be interested in the long-term position, please check in with a staff person about getting an application and further details. Please spread the word!

Our Church Family

New Members

We celebrate the new members received in worship on **Sunday, April 29**. Please welcome them when you get a chance!

Susan Anderson

Stan & Myrna Berglund

Don & Lois Mahler

Jean Metcalf

Jason & Rebecca Warner, Brynn, Logan & Dylan

Prayer Matters...

- Pat Bowe had a second surgery in April to replace her biliary duct tube with a larger one. Pray for her as she prepares for chemo to begin.
- Bill Augustin continues to improve through his speech and physical therapies. Pray for he and Mary through the long journey ahead.
- Nancy Campbell is now a permanent resident of Arizona. Continue to pray for Doc and her, and give thanks for her vast, devoted service in Christ's name.
- Please hold Del, Suzy, Savannah, Andrew, Maddie and Sammi in prayer in the weeks and months ahead following Ian Smith's death.
- Pray for the Kalway family following Joe's death in April.
- Claudia Rudenberg's mother, Beatrice, passed away on April 7 after a short time in hospice. Pray for the family as they miss her.
- Bob Peltier is experiencing intense back pain and could use prayers for relief.
- Wendy Fitch's best friend Amy has a Stage 3 glioma brain tumor. Please pray for effective treatment and peace in the days ahead.
- Pray for Sheryl Lehman's father. He is in rehab right now but will need either in-home care or an assisted living facility.
- George & Pam Christ ask for prayers for their brother-in-law, Ralph, who is undergoing chemo treatments, and for baby Issaas (born prematurely at 28 weeks), and George's boss's young daughter, Ava, who is seriously ill.
- Pray for all in our church family dealing with serious and/or chronic health conditions. May they feel our love and the love of God blanketing them on their journey.

- Donovan Kramer, former attender here at BUMC with his wife Merna, passed away on April 4. Please pray for Merna and family.

Thank You from:

- Kathy Maiden : *"Thank you, thank you, thank you so very much for the prayer shawl, meals from the church, meals from the congregation, and the many, many cards and prayers! We are so blessed to be a part of this compassionate and generous congregation."*
- From Alison Dibben: *"Thank you all so very much for the visits, the kind words and deeds, cards, prayers, flowers, food...the list goes on. What a blessing you all are!"*
- From Barb & Stephanie Mutterer: *"The Lord shows His love through special people like you! We'd like to thank our church family and friends for helping us accept and understand the times with Emma and her journey with cancer. Thank you for all your prayers, kindness, and thoughtfulness! You all have deeply touched our souls! It's through people like you that Jesus shows His love for us – you are God's greatest blessings. We thank God for you."*
- From Joe & Laurie Schroeder: *"Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, flowers and words of support as we journeyed through Bruce's Alzheimer's and passing. We are grateful that he is whole again and at peace. After days of no real communication, he suddenly spoke clearly "Peace be with me" twice, and took his last breath. That's what we'd been praying for."*
- Marjorie Zacharda: *"Thank you everyone for all the prayers, they really helped."*
- Buffalo Food Shelf: *"Please convey to your membership our appreciation for your gifts to the Food Shelf during the March MN Foodshare Month. We received a total of \$46,915 and over 27,000 lbs. of food! We are so appreciative of what our churches do to help. If anyone is interested in volunteering, the food shelf can always use volunteers. BTW, thanks to the Methodist donors for the consistent blanket support, especially Dianne, who delivers!"*
- From Thursday Woman's Big Book Study: *"Thank you for your ongoing love and support in allowing our group to meet in your rooms. Lives are being changed to the Glory of God's Grace and for this we are eternally grateful!"*

**Preschool Staff:**

Melissa Ungaro, director

Christine Hartke, 3-year-old & 4/5 teacher

Jenny Hanson, teaching assistant

We spent much of April enjoying a wonderful unit on Creepy Crawlers. Even though the weather felt more like spring one week and then winter the next, we enjoyed a little outdoor play time! This month we also took a field trip to start our unit on planting and growing. We visited the Rustic Garden, here in Buffalo for an informational and fun walk thru and planting session.

In May we will hold conferences for our 4/5 class, prepare a special surprise for Mother's Day, and end the year camping out under the stars with friends. We will be playing outside whenever the weather permits, experiencing more big muscle exercise with our swings, riding toys, balls and basketball hoop---and getting lots of Vitamin D! We will also have our last classes with Gym Nation and our last chapel visits from Mrs. McLain, and Debbie Bishop

The month of May also sadly brings our Preschool year to a close. On May 24 and 25, right before Memorial Day, we will have our end-of-the-year picnics. On those days, families bring picnic lunches for our outdoor gathering; each class shares some special songs and dances, and the teachers present each child with his/her personalized CD full of photos of the year. And then, of course, lots of hugs and kisses as we sadly say good-bye and head into the days of summer.

Looking into fall, know that we still have openings in both classes. We are offering two-day morning classes for our 3's, and three-day morning classes for our 4/5s, with an optional Lunch Bunch program that extends the 4/5 class until 2:00. I will give tours of our facility all summer as needed, and families may sign up any time. Be sure to tell others about our informative website if they wish to know more. (www.buffaloUMC.org/preschool)

Thank you for all the support and interest from our congregation this year! Our scholarship dollars were well used by helping those families in financial need, which helps provide vital early education for their youngsters. We already have requests for next year, and we know that our school is unique in being able to offer some financial assistance. What a tremendous outreach we provide by helping the youngest in our community build the base for a solid education in a Christian atmosphere, a chance they may not have without your generosity. Your dollars are well spent!! We also have grown as a preschool with you donations, in technology and being able to get many vital items on our wish list. Thank you!!

Christine, Jennifer and I feel privileged and thankful to work here, and we dearly love all of our preschool children. God has richly blessed our lives, and so we educate and enrich the lives of our little ones, teaching them about their world and God's love!

Melissa Ungaro, Director



Connection Points

Ministries and fellowship opportunities meeting at regularly scheduled times

United Methodist Women

Every 2nd Thursday of the month



All women are invited to join in the fellowship hall monthly to spend time in fellowship and devotions, and to learn more about the missions supported by the UMW.

This Month: Thursday, May 10 at 1:00 pm
Program: Spring Tea
Hostesses: Joyce Dietz & Esther Kiphuth

United Methodist Men's Fellowship

Every 3rd Saturday of the month

Men of the church interested in service, faith and fellowship are invited to come meet with other men for fellowship, devotion and fund raising projects. The meetings begin with breakfast at 7:30 am.

This month: Saturday, May 19 at 7:30 am



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every 4th Monday



Gather at Arlene Nelson's home at Park Terrace at 1:00 pm to knit or crochet shawls for people who might be homebound, in the hospital, grieving, or in other challenging situations. Call Dianne McLain at 763-682-2260 with questions.

This month: Monday, May 21 at 1:00 pm (note change to 3rd Monday)

Thursday Gatherings

Every 1st Thursday of the month

Gather in the fellowship hall at 1:00 pm for a time of fellowship playing games and occasional service project. Bring a favorite game and snacks. All are welcome! Call Esther Kiphuth at 763-477-6221 if you have questions.

This month: Thursday, May 3 at 1:00 pm



Adult Bible Study

Every Thursday



An ongoing traditional Bible study meets at Paulette Moore's home. All are welcome to join this study long- or short-term as able. Call Paulette for details at: 763-276-7435.

Currently studying 2 Peter, then will start Revelation.

Weekly: Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Diners Out Fellowship Gathering

Every 4th Thursday of the month

Gather at Perkins May-September at 5:30 pm for food and fellowship. Primarily active seniors, but all welcome! Call Sara Gaeth at 682-4964.

This month: Thursday, May 24



Praise & Coffee

Every 1st Monday of the month



Gather at Perkins for coffee, fellowship and a spirit of praise! All welcome – men, women, young or old! Call Sheryl Lehman at 763-229-0340.

This month: May 7 at 6:00 pm



**Where Everybody
Knows Your Name!**

CURTIS R. RIECK

Curtis@buffalounmc.com

(The guy who should know stuff)

A note to parents of students who will soon be graduating... and the rest of us too

I'm sure that it seems like not so long ago that you were taking pictures at the bus stop of a scared new little kindergartner, only to return home later that day as a big shot, sporting that first piece of artwork for the refrigerator door. Remember dressing them in those cute little outfits, even the teeny weeny suits with the awesome bowties. Bratz dolls, Bob the builder, Pokemon cards, Candyland and memory matches. Then, of course, the onset of video games, IPODS, and as they grew, the cell phone seemed to be their best friend.

I share these thoughts with you because sometimes as children leave us they become so caught up in the novelty of the experience and saying good-bye to everyone else, that they fail to say thanks to the people who have helped them the most along the way.

I know these young people recognize the significant role you have played in their lives.

For many years you have been their best and most loyal friend. You have given them love and made them feel appreciated and important. As parents, you have protected and defended them as best you could and stood by their side whenever needed. I thank God for you as parents and the influence you have had on your child's life. Finally, I hope you enjoy this insightful reading written by Jan Foreman.

Parenting is Like...

The task of raising kids is rather like trying to fly a kite on a day when the wind doesn't blow.

Mom and Dad run down the road pulling the cute little device at the end of a string.

It bounces along the ground and shows no inclination of getting off the ground.

Eventually, and with much effort, they manage to lift it fifteen feet in the air, but great danger suddenly looms. The kite dives toward electrical lines and twirls near trees. It is a scary moment.

Will they ever get it safely on its way? Then, unexpectedly, a gust of wind catches the kite, and it sails upward. Mom and Dad feed out line as rapidly as they can.

The kite begins pulling the string, making it difficult to hold on. Inevitably, they reach the end of their line. What should they do now? The kite is demanding more freedom. It wants to go higher. Dad stands on his tiptoes and raises his hand to accommodate the tug. It is now grasped tenuously between his index finger and thumb, held upward toward the sky. Then the moment of release comes.

The string slips through his fingers, and the kite soars majestically into God's beautiful sky.

Mom and Dad stand gazing at their precious "baby," who is now gleaming in the sun, a mere pinpoint of color on the horizon. They are proud of what they've done--but sad to realize that their job is finished. It was a labor of love. But where did the years go?

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday Schedule (through May 20) 8:15 am Joyful Praise Worship 9:20-10:20 am Fellowship & Education 10:30 am Traditional Worship</p> <p>Sunday Schedule (starting May 27) 8:15 am Joyful Praise Worship 9:15-9:45 am Fellowship 9:45 am Traditional Worship</p>		<p>1 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Property Team meeting 7:30 pm Preschool Advisory Board 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>2 8:30 am Weight Watchers 3:00 pm Guest Connections Team Mtg 6:00 pm Confirmation /Sr High Combined Night 7:00 pm Handbells @ Annandale Care Ctr</p>	<p>3 1:00 pm Thursday Gathering 6:30AA Women's Group 6:30 Adult Bible study at Paulette's</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5 9:00 am MCCI Leader Training 9:00 am AA</p>
<p>6 <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Chancel Chimes Play at both services</i> 10:20 am Jesus Rocks Rehearsal 7:30 pm AA (FH)</p>	<p>7 9:00 am Commodity Distribution 10:00 am AA 6:00 pm Praise & Coffee 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>8 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>9 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Confirmation – Faith Night 6:00 pm St High Youth 7:00 pm Handbells @ Parkview Care Center 7:30 pm Joyful Praise</p>	<p>10 1:00 pm UMW 6:30AA Women's Group 6:30 Adult Bible study at Paulette's</p>	<p>11 6:00 pm Private Rental – Piano Recital</p>	<p>12 9:00 am AA</p>
<p>13 7:30 pm AA <i>Mother's Day</i> Jesus Rocks sing</p>	<p>14 10:00 am AA 6:30 BeFriends 7:15 Life Happens! 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>15 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>16 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:00 pm St High Youth 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Joyful Praise</p>	<p>17 6:30AA Women's Group 6:30 Adult Bible study at Paulette's</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7:30 am UMM 9:00 am AA 11:00-2:00 pm Party in the Park!</p>
<p>20 <i>Pentecost</i> <i>Love Offering</i> <i>Celebration Sunday</i> <i>Last Day of Sunday School</i> <i>All children sing in worship</i> <i>UMW Bake Sale</i> 1:00 pm Parkview Service 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>21 10:00 am AA 11:30 am – 3:00 pm MS Support Group 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl @ Arlene's 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>22 10:30 am AA 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>23 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:00 pm Confirmation & Sr. High Youth Picnic at Beebe Lake 7:30 pm Joyful Praise</p>	<p>24 5:30 pm Diners Out at Perkins 6:30AA Women's Group 6:30 Adult Bible study at Paulette's</p> <p>Last Day of Preschool</p>	<p>25 Last Day of Preschool</p>	<p>26 9:00 am AA</p>
<p>27 <i>Memorial Sunday</i> Summer Schedule begins! Late service moves to 9:45 am 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>28 <i>Memorial Day</i> 10:00 am AA 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>29 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting 7:30 pm AA</p>	<p>30 8:30 am Weight Watchers 6:30 pm Rehearsal for "A Gathering of Music & Praise" concert</p>	<p>31 6:30AA Women's Group</p>		

May Schedules

Scripture Reader Schedule Traditional Celebration Service 10:30	
May 6	Mary Johnson
May 13	Barbara Sargent
May 20	Darla O'Flanagan
May 27	Nicole Coyle (9:45)
Coffee Server Schedule	
May 6	UEC - Lawrence & Darla, Nikki, Jenna, Amber
May 13	Mary Johnson & Barb Odenthal
May 20	Senior High
May 27	Martyn & Alison Dibben
Usher Schedule	
8:15 am	
May 6	Barb Odenthal & Georgia Pollock
May 13	Georgia Docherty & Deb Rippie
May 20	Loren & Jane Van Dorp
May 27	Larry & Darla Frink
10:30 am	
May 6	Ivan Erickson, Lester Hamann
May 13	Nicole Coyle & Sue Sorsoleil
May 20	Susan Anderson & Linda Bostic
May 27	Ivan Erickson & Linda Bostic (9:45)

Looking Ahead... Items to Put on Your Calendar	
June 3	'Gathering of Music & Praise" Concerts @9:45 am & 3:00 pm
June 10	Graduate Recognition FSS
June 14	UMW Visits Emma Norton Home
June 20	Summer Reading Program Begins
June 30	Wesley Meal
July 11	Wednesday Evening Worship
July 28	Mission U Too—Detroit Lakes
August 5	UMW Muffin Sunday
August 16-18	UMW Rummage Sale



Resources

Current issues of the *Upper Room* are available in the entry-way for a nominal donation.

Prayer Requests

Call the office, email or use the pew response cards to make prayer requests for the prayer circle. For inclusion in Sunday morning announcements, turn them in to the pastor before the worship service.

Prayer Circle

Please call the church office at 763-682-3538 with prayer concerns or to be part of the prayer circle.

Flowers for the Altar

Do you have a special event or person you want to honor with flowers some Sunday? Sign up on the flower chart posted by the office, and indicate if you will bring your own, or place your check for \$39 in the offering marked "flowers" and we will order.

Please let the church office know:

- If your telephone number, e-mail address or mailing address change.
- When a member of your family is hospitalized or in need of pastoral care.
- If you would like Holy Communion brought to you.
- If you know of someone in the congregation that could use a delivered meal.



Buffalo United Methodist Church
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Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-3538

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Buffalo United Methodist Church

*...serving people for Jesus Christ
so that we all may know joy!*

Office Hours:

Closed Mondays
Tuesday-Thursday – 9 am to 3 pm
Friday – 9 am to 1 pm

Phone and Fax:

763-682-3538 763-682-3614

E-Mail:

Office@BuffaloUMC.com

Website

www.BuffaloUMC.org



Find us on Facebook

Mark your calendar...



PENTECOST

**Pentecost/Celebration
Sunday**

Sunday, May 20

Mission celebration, volunteer
recognition, Sunday School party and
UMW bake sale!

*The Joy Connection is a monthly publication of The Buffalo United Methodist Church.
Submission deadline is the third Thursday of every month.*