



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Nov. 12

This Sunday, November 14 @ 9:00 am

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

This Sunday - Good News: Visions of Judgment

Imagine living in a world so hostile and dangerous, so filled with pain that your only real hope is that it will come to an end soon! Much of John's revelation is an elaborate series of God's judgments on the enemies of heaven. Their purpose isn't to strike fear into our hearts, but to assure us that God's team will win in the end.



Third Grade FSS

Today we celebrate and bless the third grade Bible Faith Stepping Stone. Our third graders met last Sunday after church to learn about their new Bibles and to decorate new Bible bags!

Sunday Scripture

As I watched, the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals on the scroll. Then I heard one of the four living beings say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" I looked up and saw a white horse standing there. Its rider carried a bow, and a crown was placed on his head. He rode out to win many battles and gain the victory. When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. They shouted to the Lord and said, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?" Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them. I watched as the Lamb broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as dark as black cloth, and the moon became as red as blood. Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind. The sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the mountains and islands were moved from their places. Then everyone—the kings of the earth, the rulers, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful, and every slave and free person—all hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?" Revelation 6:1-2, 9-17 (NLT)

Next Sunday – The New Creation

The Bible concludes with some beautiful images of the restoration of creation and the healing of our broken relationship with God. This hopeful vision promises not only the return of Jesus, but the complete establishment of God's Kingdom on earth. Can we still find hope in word-pictures that are so foreign to our modern ears?



Other Ministry Updates

Coming Up in Ministry

- Nov 14** 9:00 am Worship Service In-Person & Online FSS 3rd Grade Blessing and Handbells Play
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
- Nov 17** 6:00 pm Confirmation Faith Night
6:30 pm Handbells
6:30 pm Senior High Youth
- Nov 21** 9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:00 am Budget Q&A with Pastor Bill
10:00 am Decorate the Sanctuary
5:30 pm Handbells rehearse at Zion

Mentimeter Quizzes

You're encouraged to bring your smartphone or tablet with you to worship for the Revealing Revelation worship series because we'll be taking interactive Mentimeter quizzes about the Book of Revelation and competing for points! Scan the QR Code above to go to the quiz directly, or point your browser to www.menti.com and enter the code that we'll provide each Sunday morning. Wait for Pastor Bill to start the quiz. Your choices will be displayed on your device and tabulated with all other participants in real time on the sanctuary screen. You'll receive more points for a faster correct answer. The quizzes will only be available during worship, so don't miss out!



Fun Facts about Revelation

The author of Revelation was:

- A) Matthew, the apostle
- B) B) Mark, the apostle
- C) Luke, the apostle
- D) John, the apostle**

Which of the following animals do NOT appear in Revelation?

- A) Leviathan**
- B) Scorpion
- C) Leopard
- D) Frog

The Leviathan is mentioned six times in the Old Testament: Job 3:8, Job 40:15–41:26, Psalm 74:14, Psalm 104:26 and twice in Isaiah 27:1 (but never in Revelation or the New Testament as a whole).

Jesus is portrayed in Revelation as:

- A) A lion
- B) A lamb
- C) Both a lion and a lamb**
- D) Neither a lion nor a lamb



Jesus is the "Lion of Judah" and the Lamb who gave his life to save us from our sins.

True or False: Revelation, the last book in the Bible, shares common images with Genesis, the first book in the Bible.

True. *The tree of life and the river of life appear in both Genesis and Revelation.*

Which of the following churches was not addressed directly in Revelation's letters to the seven churches?

- A) The church at Sardis
- B) The church at Smyrna
- C) The church at Philadelphia
- D) The church at Rome**

The seven churches were all located in Asia Minor, which corresponds to the western portions of modern Turkey.

2022 Budget Q&A

We'll be hosting a budget Q&A session in the back fellowship hall on **Sunday, November 21**

after church. The 2022 budget being proposed looks like no other in recent memory. Please take this chance to preview the budget, ask questions, and offer recommendations prior to the Church Conference on **Sunday, December 5.**



Secure Giving



Worship Registration





Other Ministry Updates

Poinsettia Order Forms Now in Pews

Help adorn our sanctuary for Christmas by donating a poinsettia. Place order in the offering plate by **November 21** using the forms in the pews. Flowers remain through Christmas Eve. Quantities and colors are limited this year. You can now order and pay for this online using the QR code above.



Annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

On **Wednesday, November 24**, please join us at 7pm for our annual Community Festival of Praise and Thanksgiving, featuring community handbell and vocal choirs made up of people from area churches, with local pastors sharing prayers and Scripture readings. This year, you're welcome to join us in person at Zion Lutheran Church or join us online (be watching for the online link on the websites for BUMC and Zion).

Radical 2022 Budget Cuts Planned

The church is currently forecasting a reduction of giving for 2022 of \$80,000 or more. These giving losses are currently offset in the draft 2022 budget by:

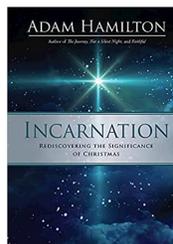
- \$40k Multiple staff positions becoming unpaid staff
- \$17k Staff Salary Reductions (10%)
- \$8k Apportionments Withholding (20%)
- \$9k Use of Mortgage Reserves

There are two ways that we might still avoid making such radical cuts:

- If you haven't submitted your 2022 Promise of Giving, please do so today
- If many of us increased our giving, together we could make a big difference

Thursday Noon Advent Study

We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Thursdays in December from 12pm to 1pm** to discuss *Incarnation - Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, by Adam Hamilton. Each session will include a short video and discussion of a section of the book. There is a sign-up on the church bulletin board. Books are



available for \$10.00. Bring your lunch if you like! Please plan to wear a mask when not eating.

- December 2: Presidents and Kings
- December 9: The Savior and Our Need for Saving
- December 16: Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic
- December 23: The Light of the World

Wrapped in Love

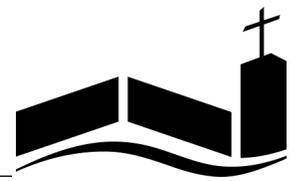
Thanks to Kris Carlson, the non-profit, Wrapped in Love in downtown Buffalo is dear to the heart of BUMC. Because of that we are teaming up with them for a Christmas project.



Wrapped in Love is an organization that works with families who have foster children. The children will be scheduled to come to the Wrapped in Love store and choose Christmas gifts for all their family members. We want them to be able to wrap their gifts before leaving so we are asking you, from now until **November 24**, to please bring gifts bags and tissue paper and put them in the marked cart in the main entry. Please no small bags, just medium and large sizes, and no rolls of wrapping paper. Thanks for helping make these children's Christmas special.

Sanctuary Team Now Formed

A Sanctuary Team has been formed at BUMC and it consists of Robin Anderson, Jeremy Carlson, Jerry Ford, Collin Gravely, Gail Hurley, Ottie Otness, Gerry Starr, Jane Van Dorp and Rita Varner-Otness. Because the carpet in the sanctuary has been damaged and needs replacing this team of volunteers led by Jeremy Carlson came to be. After Jeremy's hard work and persistence, our insurance company has agreed to fully fund (minus our deductible of \$2500) new carpet and its installation in the entire sanctuary. This project is to start after the first of the year and due to insurance requirements must be completed by **March 12, 2022**. Besides carpeting, future considerations include seating, lighting, and painting. Please feel free to contact any of the team members with questions.



Other Ministry Updates

Calling all volunteers!



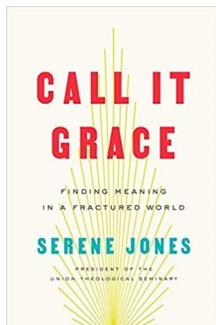
We are looking for decorating volunteers on **Nov 21** after worship to help decorate the Fellowship Hall. No

experience needed- just a willingness to bring some Christmas cheer to our church! Let's meet in the Fellowship Hall, grab a cup of coffee and proceed to deck the halls!

What Are You Reading?

The Adult Disciple Vision Team has asked BUMC members to submit reviews of what they are presently reading, watching or studying. In upcoming months you will see a review from an individual and we are hoping that this will inspire you to also pick up the book, watch the movie, or engage in the devotional that is being reviewed. Please feel free to speak with the person who submitted the review. Also if you would like to submit a review on a book, movie, devotional, study or blog please send it to Rita at ritaraevo@gmail.com as we welcome more participation.

Laurie Schroeder writes:
I am reading a book "Call it Grace: Finding meaning in a fractured world" by Serene Jones. The author is president of Union Theological Seminary. For those like me, struggling to see God's hand and the role of faith in our world right now, the book reminds us that it's okay to question with what we really believe. The book encourages us to be honest about our doubts and wonder what the meaning of our lives is, and also challenges us to both offer and accept grace. It's also about discovering your own life theology...what you believe based on all that you have learned and experienced in your walk with God and other human beings. I have found this book incredibly helpful in my life journey right now.



All Indoor Food Restrictions Lifted

All indoor food restrictions have been lifted. BUMC is still encouraging everyone over the age of 2 to wear a face covering inside our building.



BUMC Will Host Adopt a Family

We are pleased that our church will be hosting the Buffalo Rotary's Adopt-a-Family Christmas program this year. We ask your gracious hospitality as we work with the Rotary to administer this program.

2022 Promise Cards Still Welcome



If you didn't turn in your promise cards for **2022**, both for financial estimate of giving and My Plan for Serving, please bring them

in. We welcome them through the end of the year, but appreciate having them as soon as possible. Not only does it help the church in planning ministry, it also helps you find clarity and joy in your faith walk and spiritual growth.

Blankets for Beds

Thank you to everyone who continues to bring in blankets and bedding to donate to the Food Shelf. The need is NEVER ending. Any and ALL new OR gently used blankets/linens are accepted---please put them in the "Blanket Basket" outside of the church office or call Dianne McLain (763-682-2260) if you need them to be picked up.

BUMC Prayer Labyrinth is Still Open

Find the labyrinth on the grounds behind the church on the north side. Resources to help guide your experience are available in the box. You are welcome anytime! The Labyrinth will be closing for the winter soon.

Don't Forget Our Little Free Library!

Our Little Free Library down by the playground continues to be well used. Remember, you can place books for children or adults in it at any time, and perhaps take a book home to read!