



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Nov. 13

This Sunday, November 15, 9:00 am

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

Be Positive

It can be so hard to positive in the face of hard times, especially when it comes to the words that we let escape our mouths. Rejoicing always has less to do with disciplining our tongues and more to do with being more selective in what we chose to dwell on. It's possible to celebrate each day while also meeting each day's challenges.

Check out this quick video from ASAP Science that Pastor Bill refers to in his message: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9n2tmNWn1ec>



Sunday Scripture

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. Ephesians 4:29

If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. James 1:26

Sunday Prayer—Be Prayerful

Good and Holy God, during this time of adversity and scattering, may we be reminded of who you are and who you've called us to be.

- In times of despair, may we learn to cling to the hope we have in Jesus Christ, ever more deeply.
- In times of division, may we remain united by our faith through the powerful presence of your Holy Spirit.
- In times of exhaustion, may we grow stronger in the face of adversity, each of us earnestly seeking to help each other.
- In times of wavering faith, may we continue to grow in our love of God and neighbor.

In Jesus we make our prayer, the one who suffered, died and was raised to new life, in whom we trust these days and all days. Amen.

Next Sunday Consecration Sunday

Last Sunday's Homework

Homework

- ♥ Pray our new prayer at home
- ♥ Memorize the Lord's Prayer
- ♥ Pray with a friend over Zoom or phone
- ♥ Set an alarm to pray every day
- ♥ Pray for others before yourself
- ♥ Find another creative way to be prayerful that you haven't tried before!



Other Ministry Updates

Consecration Sunday, November 22

Our **BE** worship series will culminate with Consecration Sunday as we dedicate our 2021 Estimates of Giving and plans for serving God. You can complete yours using the material you received by mail or by visiting the church website.

Church Conference Sunday, Nov. 29

There will be a Church Conference to vote on the 2021 budget, membership report, elected church leadership, and other church business will take place on Sunday, **November 29 at 11:00** am via Zoom. All members of Buffalo UMC are welcome to vote. Constituents are welcome to participate with voice but not vote.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84364130797?pwd=ZWk4bm1qWnBybXR6TllpVysrUGE3UT09>

Meeting ID: 843 6413 0797 Passcode: 952509

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Christmas Stories Wanted!

We'd like to include some very short videos (about two minutes) of you and/or your family with your Christmas decorations for our worship starting **November 29**. If you were planning on skipping the whole affair this year, think again. There are plenty of good reasons to keep this Advent tradition, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. If you're able to make a short video, showing us your decorations and talking about a favorite decoration or a favorite Christmas memory, email the church office and we'll send you instructions.

Dough Holy Night



"Dough Holy Night" is a deliciously-fun all church experience with the true meaning of Christmas baked in. On **December 6th** at **1:00PM**,

we'll meet together on ZOOM to bake our

cookies at home, all while discovering the ingredients that made the first ever Christmas so sweet!! It's so simple, anyone can do it! We will be putting cookie baking kits together for anyone who wants them, so if you are interested in picking one up, please email Michelle by **November 29**. We will have pick-up dates on Dec 3 & 4 (more details to come!).

Memorial Christmas Ornaments

This year, instead of Poinsettia's around the Christmas tree we will be adorning the tree with Angel ornaments. These ornaments will be \$10.00, with \$3.00 per angel going to **Wrapped In Love** of Buffalo.



Memorial ornaments are a touching way to honor and celebrate loved ones who will never be forgotten. Please email Michelle in the church office to place your order.

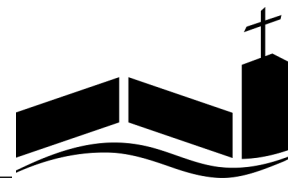
Parking Lot Christmas Carol Sing along

Get into the advent spirit with an old-fashioned, outdoor Christmas Carol Sing along. We will hold our first ever sing along on **Dec. 20 at 1:00PM** in the church parking lot. Join us as we sing some of the favorites! We invite you to stay in your car with the heater on and sing from your car!!



Coming Up in Ministry

- Nov. 15 **9:00 am Online Worship Service**
10:00 am Sunday School online for Pre-1st, 7th & 8th grade
10:30 am Sunday School online for 2nd-6th grade
- Nov. 17 **7:00 PM SPRC Meeting**
- Nov. 18 **6:00 pm Confirmation—Focus Night**
6:30 Senior High Youth
- Nov. 22 **9:00 am Online Worship Service**
10:00 am Sunday School online for Pre-1st, 7th & 8th grade
10:30 am Sunday School online for 2nd-6th grade



Other Ministry Updates

Faith Stepping Stones

Congratulations to Steven & Brianna Kiphuth on the Baptism of Macie Lee last Sunday. Please pray for our 3rd grade students as they received their FSS blessing last Sunday also.



Community Festival of Praise & Thanksgiving

The annual Community Festival of Praise and Thanksgiving hosted by Buffalo faith communities will premiere online on Wednesday, November 25, at 7pm. This year, you can invite your neighbors, friends, and family to attend this service of thanks no matter where they are through our BUMC Facebook instead of coming to the Zion sanctuary. The link is also on our webpage.



Food Shelf Support Available

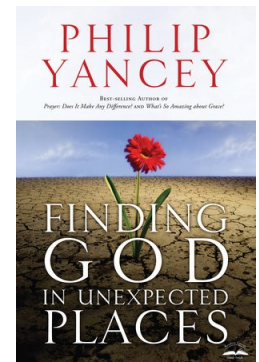
Remember, the Buffalo Food Shelf is open for any who are feeling food insecure, and are observing physical distancing. Distribution times are Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Friday mornings, with senior day on the first Monday of the month in the morning.

Cards of Encouragement

BUMC will be dropping off muffins and fruit for the teachers and staff at Northwinds Elementary school in Buffalo on November 23. This is a little “thank you” for all they are doing for the kids in our community! Would you help out by sending a note of encouragement or thanks to them? If you’d like to write a note, please drop it at the church office by November 20. There will be a basket right inside the door for you to put it in. All notes will be sent with the treats on Nov 23rd!

Adult Advent Study

We will be looking at 4 topics in Phillip Yancy’s book Finding God in Unexpected Places, Finding God in the Rubble; Finding God in a Fractured Society; Finding God in the Cracks, and Finding God Within the Church. We will be doing this through a Zoom group discussion of 4 sessions, **Nov.**



29, Dec 6, 13, 20. We are looking for one leader to run the Zoom meeting. Please contact Rita Varner Otness if you have interest at healinghands.dc@bwig.net.

True
Noble
Reputable
Authentic
Compelling
Gracious
Best
Beautiful
Praiseworthy



Use this image as a reminder to meditate and speak on positive things this week.
**Philippians 4:4-8,
The Message**



Advent Season Resources

FINDING GOD IN THE ADVENT SEASON

The Adult Disciple Vision Team has put together some resources that you can use independently or with others.

In Phillip Yancy's book *Finding God in Unexpected Places*, we will be looking at 4 topics: Finding God in the Rubble; Finding God in a Fractured Society; Finding God in the Cracks, and Finding God Within the Church. We will be doing this through a Zoom group discussion of 4 sessions, Nov. 29, Dec 6, 13, 20. We are looking for one leader to run the Zoom meeting, and we will then break into smaller groups by Zoom for discussion. You can also choose to read this book on your own if you prefer. If you have read Yancy's book before, we will be using his new edition that includes more topics than his first writing. The other Advent resource is, *Almost Christmas – A Wesleyan Advent Experience*, Devotions for the Season. John Wesley once preached a sermon called "The Almost Christian". It was filled with questions designed to encourage a shift from an "almost" faith to an "altogether love for God". Wesley's questions can help us along our Advent journey as we prepare our hearts to receive Christ more fully. The book contains 31 devotions – beginning on December 1 – exploring each question, as well as meditations on some Christmas hymns. One of the authors wrote "Read each entry, pray through the questions that Wesley asks, and consider how God is leading you to make steady movement from an almost faith to an altogether one, as we welcome a fresh arrival of Jesus in our lives." This book is designed for independent use but feel free to reach out to others, encourage them to participate daily in reading and discussion with you.

Since church is not open, we are asking those wanting to use these resources to go online and purchase them yourselves, check your local library, or local bookstores who can also order them for you. *Almost Christmas* daily devotional is available at www.cokesbury.com, presently for \$8.00. *Finding God in Unexpected Places* is available on Christianbook.com or Amazon for \$12-16.00. If you have difficulty purchasing or are unable to secure the book you want, please call Michelle in the office. Please let Rita Varner-Otness know if you are willing to lead a Zoom group discussion or if you want to be a participant in the 4-week study of Yancy's book.

Rita's email is healinghands.dc@bwig.net.

Advent Resources Available at BUMC

Below is a list of Advent resources and Christmas books that are in our BUMC library. We are offering them to our congregation for free, no cost or charge to you. We just want them to be used and not returned! Each is available on a first come, first call basis. Please let Michelle in the office know which selection you would like, and she will send it to you by mail. Wouldn't some of these make perfect gifts?

Adult Studies

Prepare the Way by Pamela C Hawkins (2)
The Gift of the Nutcracker by Matt Rawle (2)
When God Comes Down by James A. Harnish (2)
God in the Manager by B Bonhoeffer (1)
Travel the Highways of Advent by Stan Purdum (3)
Behold by Pamela C Hawkins (1)
Christmas Gifts that Won't Break by James W. Moore (1)
Simply Wait, Cultivating Stillness in the Season of Advent by Paula C Hawkins (1)

Family Activity/Devotion

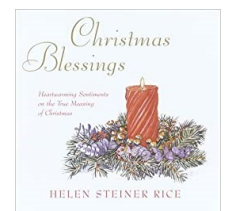
Family Nights (1)

Prayer and Care Notes Pamphlets

Going on an Advent Prayer Journey (5)
Praying Our Way to Christmas – and Beyond (6)
Rediscovering the Many Gifts of Christmas (8)

Adult Christmas Books

Our Christmas Story by Ruth Bell Graham (1)
Christmas Blessings by Helen Steiner Rice (1)



Children's Softcover Books (one of each available)

Away in A Manager-Sing and Color Book
Joseph's Christmas Story
The Other Wise Man
The Night Before Christmas
Mickey's Christmas Carol
The Friendly Beasts- An Old English Christmas Carol
The Best Christmas Stories Ever

Children's Hardcover Books Waiting for Noel-

An Advent Story
The Very First Christmas
Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect

