



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Nov. 20

This Sunday, November 22, 9:00 am

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

Be Grateful

Giving thanks for a gift reminds us not only of our appreciation for the gift, but also the love that it represents on behalf of the giver. Being grateful to God is a reminder that God loves us as well as being an expression of our love for God. Be grateful to God, because God is good!



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

Sunday Scripture

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation. Psalm 100

Next Sunday



We will begin our Advent series next Sunday. Although Jesus said, "Seek and you will find," we don't always find God where, when, and how we expect. The Advent story of how Jesus was born into this world has much to teach us about God's tendency to surprise us by revealing the Divine where and when we least expect it, in powerful and redeeming ways!

Finding God Among the Screw-ups

No matter how smart we are, no matter how old we are, everybody screws up sometimes. Everybody. Being made in the "image of God" means we have infinite value and great potential, but it doesn't mean we won't screw up. Thankfully, God has a long history of working with people like us and bringing beauty out of ugly situations.

Hanging of the Greens

Hey, it's a once a year traditional gathering of High School students to assist with the Hanging of the Greens Service! BUMY students sure hope that you will be able to join us online next Sunday, **November 22nd at 9:00** via the church Facebook Page. See you Sunday!



Hanging of the Greens



Other Ministry Updates

Bishop Dials Back Regathering Plan

Wright County (and all of the midwest) is currently experiencing a dramatic growth in COVID-19 cases, with hospitalizations and deaths setting new records every day. Just as our Governor has dialed back the COVID response for all Minnesotans, so too our Bishop has dialed back our Conference Regathering Plan to "Red," the most cautious phase of the plan. The good news is that we have made almost all of the necessary adjustments already and most of our ministries will continue uninterrupted. None of our Advent events will be affected, and even the Parking Lot Sing Along can proceed, provided carolers remain in their cars with masks on and their windows rolled down. The most significant change in this phase is that we are asking outside groups such as AA, as well as BUMC ministry groups (of any size), to discontinue meetings in the church building until this spike in the pandemic abates. Please visit our church website to see a revised COVID-19 Precautions Update and FAQ. Thank you for your patience and the gift of health that you're giving to your friends, family, and neighbors.



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

NEW! Virtual Fellowship Next Sunday

Today we're trying something new! You're invited to join Pastor Bill for a virtual fellowship time on Zoom at **10:00**, right after worship. He'll let you in to the virtual "fellowship hall," and once you enter, he'll be able to send you to your own private table if you just let him know who you want to be seated with. Stay for a couple of minutes, or stay for 45 minutes- It's all up to you. He'll manage the Zoom connection and the table assignments for you until he has to break the connection to prepare for the Annual Church Conference.

Time: Nov 29, 2020 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87358934968?pwd=UjdFKzVFSEJyTUd0OQ2w5eTVZQzRldz09>
Meeting ID: 873 5893 4968 Passcode: 399671

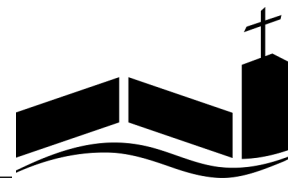
Christmas Stories Wanted!

We'd like to include some very short videos (less than 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**. Pick up is Dec. 3 & 4.





Other Ministry Updates

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 a-long on **Dec. 20 at 1:00PM** in the church parking lot. Join us as we sing

some of the favorites! To ensure everyone's safety (and with the new restrictions) we invite you to stay in your car with the heater on! We'll be singing from our cars, masks on and windows open. Please leave at least six feet between your car and the next but don't let the cold stop you from coming!

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

The Buffalo Food Shelf is in need of volunteers to help shoppers. They especially need

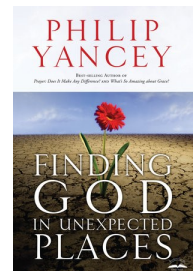
volunteers for Tuesday and Thursday evenings, but would welcome volunteers for any of their open hours. The food shelf is continuing to provide for the community during their usual distribution times. They are doing so in a safe way. They have had no COVID cases. If you have ever considered this volunteer opportunity, you are needed now! Please contact Connie Heckenlaible if you are interested 612-709-8233.

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 person to run the Zoom meeting, a few other designated people to get the conversation going! Please contact Rita Varner Otness if you have interest at healinghands.dc@bwig.net. Since church is not open, we are asking those wanting to use these resources to go online and purchase them, check your local library, or local bookstores who can also order them for you. *Almost Christmas Daily Devotional* is available at www.cokesbury.com, 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.





Other Ministry Updates

Coming Up in Ministry

- 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
- Nov. 24 **7:00 pm Finance Meeting**
- Nov. 25 **No Confirmation or Senior High Youth**
7:00 pm Community Festival of Praise
 & Thanksgiving online
- Nov. 29 **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

www.cokesbury.com, 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.

Adopt a Family in Need

The need for families to adopt is incredibly great this year as many families struggle financially and emotionally due to COVID-19. The Buffalo Rotary Adopt a Family Program will again provide clothing and personal items for children ages 0 to 18 this holiday season. If you could help out adopting a family, email at BuffaloAdoptaFamily@gmail.com.

Last Sunday's Homework

Homework

- ♥ Adopt Dudley Do-Right for a week
- ♥ If it's going to be funny in 2 weeks...
- ♥ Take regular breaks from FB and news
- ♥ Compliment yourself and others
- ♥ Do something nice for someone
- ♥ Find another creative way to be positive that you haven't tried before!

Church Office

With the new restrictions the staff will be working from home. We all will be available by phone and email.

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 (1)
- When God Comes Down by James A. Harnish (1)
- God in the Manager by B Bonhoeffer (1)
- Travel the Highways of Advent by Stan Purdum (2)
- Behold by Pamela C Hawkins (1)
- Christmas Gifts that Won't Break by James W. Moore (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)

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
- The Visit of the Wise Men

Children's Hardcover Books

- Waiting for Noel-An Advent Story
- The Very First Christmas
- Why Christmas Trees Aren't Perfect