



So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Nov. 6

This Sunday, November 8, 9:00 am

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

Be Prayerful

Is there a right way to pray? Jesus taught that we should be simple and direct with God, asking for what we want. On the other hand, Jesus also taught that our prayers (as well as our hearts and lives) need to be oriented to the heart of God. How can we tell when we're praying in a way that pleases God?



Third Grade Faith Stepping Stone Blessing

This Sunday, during online worship, the Third Graders will receive a congregational blessing!

Sunday Scripture

Then [Jesus] said, "Imagine what would happen if you went to a friend in the middle of the night and said, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. An old friend traveling through just showed up, and I don't have a thing on hand.' "The friend answers from his bed, 'Don't bother me. The door's locked; my children are all down for the night; I can't get up to give you anything.' "But let me tell you, even if he won't get up because he's a friend, if you stand your ground, knocking and waking all the neighbors, he'll finally get up and get you whatever you need. "Here's what I'm saying: Ask and you'll get; Seek and you'll find; Knock and the door will open. "Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing—you're at least decent to your own children. And don't you think the Father who conceived you in love will give the Holy Spirit when you ask him?" Luke 11:5-13

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.

Last Sunday's Homework

Homework

- ♥ Post a daily Bible verse for yourself
- ♥ Try a new devotional
- ♥ Follow through on a promise
- ♥ Make Your Estimate of Giving
- ♥ Complete "Be Involved" survey
- ♥ Find another creative way to be faithful that you haven't tried before!



Other Ministry Updates

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. Yes, that means you'll have to get your decorations out before December 24! 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**, 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! Watch for more details soon!!

Memorial Christmas Ornaments

This year instead of Poinsettia's around the Christmas tree we will be adorning the tree with Angel ornaments. Memorial ornaments are a touching way to honor and celebrate loved ones who will never be forgotten. As we celebrate Christmas, we remember our blessings and those we love both present and past. Any proceeds from this purchase will go to **Wrapped In Love** of Buffalo. Watch for more info and how to order next week.

Parking Lot Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

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** in the church parking lot. We are looking for someone to organize this outdoor experience, so please call the church office if you can help!!



Consecration Sunday November 22

Our **BE** worship series will culminate with Consecration Sunday on **November 22** 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.

Confirmation

This week is a Faith night via Zoom and will include Faith Partners. Watch for the email with your journal page and Zoom link. See you at 6 pm.

Church Conference Sunday, Nov. 29

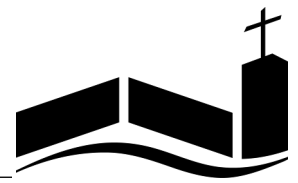
There will be a Church Conference to vote on the 2021 budget, membership report, elected church leadership, and other church business will take place on Sunday, **November 29 at 11:00 am** via Zoom. All members of Buffalo UMC are welcome to vote. Constituents are welcome to participate with voice but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

New Email for Prayer Requests

We have a new separate email address specifically for prayer concerns/requests. Debbie, our new Ministry & Worship Coordinator will directly receive your emails and put your prayer requests on the Prayer Circle. The email address is Prayerrequests@buffaloumc.com.

Coming Up in Ministry

- Nov. 8 **9:00 am Online Worship Service** - Third Grade FSS Blessing
- 10:00 am Sunday School** online for Pre-1st, 7th & 8th grade
- 10:30 am Sunday School** online for 2nd-6th grade
- Nov. 10 **7:00 PM Leadership Team Meeting**
- Nov. 11 **6:00 pm Confirmation—Faith Night**
- 6:30 Senior High Youth**
- Nov. 14 **8:00 am Worship Design Team Meeting**
- Nov. 15 **9:00 am Online Worship Service** - Third Grade FSS Blessing
- 10:00 am Sunday School** online for Pre-1st, 7th & 8th grade
- 10:30 am Sunday School**



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 Adult Studies

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?

- 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 (3)
- 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

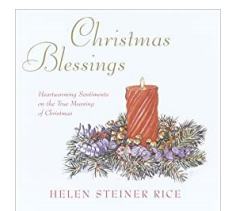
- Family Nights (1)

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 (one of each)

- Bear Stays Up for Christmas
- Mortimer's Christmas Manger
- Waiting for Noel-An Advent Story
- The Very First Christmas
- God Gave Us Christmas
- Why Christmas Trees Aren't

