



The Joy Connection

February 2011

A monthly publication of Buffalo United Methodist Church

Worship Events

February 6

Made by God

Matthew 22: 34-40

Holy Communion

February 12, 7:00 pm

Saturday Celebration

Unfinished Projects

February 13

Made to Love

John 4: 1-26

Preschool Sings

February 20

Made to Worship

1 Peter 4: 1-11

February 27

Made to Serve

Colossians 1: 3-14

Children Sing (3 yrs-1st gr)

Sunday Schedule

8:15 am

Joyful Praise Worship

9:20 – 10:20 am

Fellowship & Education Hour

10:30 am

Traditional Celebration

Shining Our Light

A man once observed a young boy out in a field flying a kite. He noticed that there was something odd about the way the boy was standing and holding on to the string. He walked up to the boy and then learned that the boy was blind. He said, "Do you like flying kites?" The boy said, "I sure do."

This piqued the man's curiosity and he asked, "How is that, when you cannot see it?" The boy answered, "I may not be able to see it but I can feel it tugging!"

All around us there are people who are blind, not in the physical sense of not being able to see, but rather spiritually blind. They feel a tug on their hearts and souls but can't see well enough to identify the source – God's love.

That's where you and I come in. We have been given a story to share with the world. God is loving and gracious. We are on a journey that is best enjoyed in companionship with others. God loves movement and dynamic relationships. We are gifted with a desire to share life's blessings with others. God is abundant and generous.

So, how do we share the story? Who do we invite to journey with us? When and where do we share all that is good in our lives?

Jesus tells a parable in Luke 8.16. "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a basket, or puts it under a bed; but puts it on a stand, that those who enter in may see the light." Is the light of faith shining forth in your life?

The answer to the question is important. You see, if it is our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (and as United Methodists, this is precisely our mission), then getting the word out about the love of God experienced through Jesus is our responsibility. And, being good stewards of all that we have, our primary tool for getting the word out should be what we use most often. Think about it – we wouldn't use a spatula to clear the sidewalk of snow if we had a shovel available ...would we?

The most effective and efficient method of helping people understand the source of that tug on their hearts and soul is – drum roll, please – personal interaction! According to a recent survey, 37% of people visiting a church for the first time do so in response to a personal invitation; 18% cited the physical presence of the church as the primary factor; 11% mentioned some form of advertising as the reason the visited a church. No other factors listed were above 10%.

When you decide to share your faith and invite someone to experience Jesus – *Buffalo United Methodist Church* style – the best method is one-on-one, face-to-face, heart-to-heart. *Lifeway Research* found that 62% of those considered unchurched are open to attending a church service IF INVITED. Sounds like people feel the tug, but are waiting for someone to help them look for the source. That someone can be you in 2011. Take the basket off your faith lamp and let others see the light of Christ shining in you.

Blessings,
Pastor Jef



Buffalo United Methodist Church



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

As we celebrate 125 Years we take the next step in

growing our relationship with God

growing in community presence

growing in passion and excitement

growing in number of participants

growing in staff and facilities

Leadership Team – Setting the Agenda for our Ministries

Holly Bernatz, Lay Leader & Facilitator	763-497-6090
Bruce Schmidt, Treasurer	763-477-5856
Peter Bedker, Finance Team Chair	763-682-9562
Jim Tool, Staff-Parish Relations Chair	763-684-1834
Del Smith, Property Team Chair	763-257-4773
Ronda DCamp, Recorder	763-682-6214
Robin Anderson, Education Team Chair	763-682-2396
Joel Wanner, Member at Large	320-224-8042
Larry Totten, Member at Large	763-516-3367
Laurie Schroeder, Lay Associate Minister	763-682-3538
Jeffrey Olson, Pastor (ex officio)	763-682-3538

Partners in Ministry (Nominations) Team

Steve Lichtenberg	763-682-2718
Linda Sherman	763-682-2948
Pam Sieberg	763-682-4734
Kathy Varner	763-682-4992
Martyn Dibben	763-684-0527
Laurie Schroeder	763-682-4409
Pastor Jef Olson	763-682-3538

✠ Spiritual Growth

Lenten Studies Begin in March

Living with the Mind of Christ

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 9 and our theme this year is *Living with the Mind of Christ*, based on a book by James A. Harnish. We would like to have as many small group studies as possible meeting through Lent to further explore together the book. These studies will use accounts of Jesus' life and ministry from the gospel of Luke and the apostle Paul's letter to the church at Philippi.

In order to have small groups meeting, we need to have group leaders. Would you consider walking through this book with others? Group leaders would choose a time to meet that works for their schedule and then sign-up sheets for participants would be posted. Books are available for review. PLEASE consider this and sign up on the bulletin board or let a staff person know that you will lead a group ASAP.

Saturday "Awakenings" Celebrations

These Saturday night events are meant to be casual and comfortable for the public as well as our congregation. Our hope is to awaken a new spiritual awareness within the participants. These are also a wonderful way for our congregation to begin to live out one of the goals identified by our Visioning Team – create new portals of entry for people.

Please do your part to invite the community to our upcoming Saturdays. Flyers are available at church to hand out or post.

Saturday, February 12, 6 & 7 pm "Unfinished Projects"

Gifted local potter, Jess Johanneck, will join us to demonstrate how fine pottery is made, and our service will explore the idea that we're all really "unfinished creations" of our Maker. Demonstration, display and fellowship at 6:00 pm followed by service at 7:00 pm.

Saturday, March 5, 6 & 7 pm

Celebration of Life

We'll enjoy Mardi Gras-style Dixieland music and words celebrating life to prepare us for the journey of Lent ahead. Decadent desserts and fellowship at 6:00 pm followed by the program at 7:00 pm with musicians from BUMC and other community friends.

Disciple Bible Study Update

Lot of ideas were flying around the table when the Disciple Bible Study group talked about sharing a message in the newsletter. We decided this sentence from our workbook, chapter 16 entitled HOPE, would give you an idea of what we are learning: "Disciples sense their unity with the historic people of God and live in hope with a vision of God's kingdom."

Ask any of us about Disciple Bible

Study: Kathy Varner	Linda Sherman
Sally Fowler	Joanne Johnson
Sally Peterson	Traci Torgerson
Erla Kyllonen	

All Church Training to be Held

Do we want to be the vital congregation we have potential to be? We will learn how to better live out our congregational goals and The Great Commission at an all-church training session in March. Our district superintendent, Katie Schneider-Bryan suggested the training "More than a Welcome: Becoming Invitational." Together we'll look at five spheres or ways to learn the art of becoming more invitational. We hope to hold it **Saturday, March 12 or 19** and are working on firming up a date. Watch for details!!

Awakenings Covenant Team

Consider signing a covenant to attend as many Saturday evening events as possible. By providing a "critical mass in the pews" we are more likely to successfully connect with our guests. As part of the covenant, you choose the attendance commitment level that suits you – either 4-6 or 7-10 times over the next year. We are a community of healing, hope and joy – we should be excited to reach out and share that with new people. Registration forms are available on the Saturday Awakenings table set up in the fellowship hall.



♥ *Ministry & Missions*

Help Deliver Meals on Wheels

February is our month to deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound people in the community. It usually takes less than an hour to complete a route. Here's what you do:

- 1) Stop at the back door of Lake Ridge between 11:30 and 11:45 am to pick up containers with 8-12 hot meals.
- 2) Drive one of the 3 routes to deliver those meals to people who are waiting.
- 3) Return the containers to Lake Ridge.

If you aren't familiar with Buffalo, we can help you team up with someone who does. Each route comes with complete information with name and address. They need three drivers per day. Sign up now on the bulletin board in the entryway to help!



Worship at Lino Lakes Prison

We have been invited by the InnerChange Freedom Initiative staff to join the IFI guys and some members of the general prison population at Lino Lakes for a worship service on **Friday, March 4**. We have not been to Lino Lakes since November, 2009 so it will be good to re-connect with the IFI Program and to worship with the inmates. The worship service runs from 7:00 – 8:30 PM and involves music, scripture readings, personal testimonies, etc. We leave from the church at 4:30 PM and return back about 10:00PM. You are welcome to join us as an observer, a singer, a scripture reader, as a Power Point operator.

We will go over some basic prison visit procedures and rules and select readers on **Wednesday, March 2 at 6 pm**. We will start music practice at 6:30 pm. Please contact Craig (763-682-1994) or Laurie at church if you have any questions.

Dream Big - Outreach Ministry Opportunities Explored

We kicked off the new year on January 6 with an open forum to discuss possible ministries that might help us reach into the community, and created the following list. If you have a passion for further exploration or spearheading any of these over the next year, let us know.

- **Kids Against Hunger** works with groups to host a food packaging event to provide meals for shipping to Tanzania. We tentatively have one scheduled for **April 2**, so contact Melanie if you could help with coordination. If we like doing it, this is something we could do again.
- **Angel Food Ministries** allows a host site (potentially BUMC) to provide monthly packages of food for a price far below the value of the food to anyone who registers. This is a long-term, monthly commitment.
- **Love Inc. (Love in the Name of Christ)** has now established a local chapter, which unites churches to coordinate local resources and services in providing both long-term and immediate help to those in need in the community. We would love to have a BUMC congregational liaison to Love INC so we could be more involved.
- **Divorce Care** – Offer this 13-week curriculum and/or a Christian support group for those going through divorce or adjusting to post-divorce life.
- **Good Sense Budget Course** – Offer this six-week course to help people with the practical (and spiritual) aspects of money management.
- **Singles Fellowship** – planning events for singles, perhaps by age categories
- **Technology Training for Seniors** – offer classes on various technologies and gadgets
- **Latch-Key program** – provide a place for school kids to go rather than be home alone.
- **Grace Happens** – reactivate this “random acts of kindness” ministry
- **Field Trips for Adults** – plan outings
- **Sanity Savers** – provide short-notice, short-term child care
- **Tween programs** – provide more programs for 4th-7th graders

United Methodist Women

The UMW has an exciting year of programs and activities planned for 2011. They started the New Year by electing officers: Kris Dirks is the new president with Sara Gaeth as vice president, Joyce Dietz is secretary and Esther Kiphuth continues as treasurer. .

All women are invited to their next meeting on **Tuesday, February 8 at 1:30 pm** in the church fellowship hall. Gretta Nelson will share the program entitled "Sharing Love through Written Notes." Arlene Nelson will give the devotion and the hostesses are Jean Vokaty and Glorianne Kobbe.

Looking ahead, on **Sunday, March 27 at 7:00 pm**, Gary Waggoner will speak on "Dealing with Cancer" at the annual Health Issues Overview sponsored by UMW. This program is open to all persons of our church and community. Invite a friend!

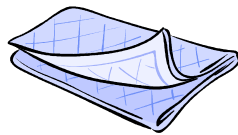
Prepare a Lenten Dinner

We are looking for groups to serve the Lenten dinners on Wednesday evenings. Two are spoken for already, but the rest are open and your help would be appreciated! Let Laurie know if you can help.

March 9	UMW
March 16	Senior High
March 23	?
March 30	?
April 6	?
April 13	?

Blankets for Beds

As we head into cooler weather, Dianne McLain has begun collecting new or gently used blankets of any size for local distribution once again. Place them by the food shelf wagon in the hallway.



Please check out the Connection Points page at the end of the newsletter for more events!

Children's Ministries & Sunday School

Robin's Sunday School Update

Our Sunday School theme in February is "Teachings of Jesus." The lessons our students will learn are: The Lord's Prayer, Birds of the Air, The Golden Rule and The Greatest Commandment. Our 6th graders will learn about: Twelve Sent Out, Feeding the Five Thousand, Peter's Declaration and The Transfiguration. This month gives our children the "core" of what Jesus wants us to know for our entire life! Isn't this fantastic?

This month is very quiet in our Sunday School area as there are no Faith Stepping Stones for any group. Enjoy the calm!

Sunday School Planning for the Future Meeting on Feb. 1

Children learn about God through family and friends, in their homes and neighborhoods. At church, we have a variety of Christian Education opportunities for kids, like Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the preschool and Wednesday after-school programs. Thank you to ALL who volunteer in sharing their faith with children and their families!

We have been blessed by Robin Anderson's gift of faithful-leadership in the Sunday School ministries for many years! Please take time to thank her as she will be "retiring" in May.

This creates a time of transition and opportunity for new leaders. You are invited to a planning meeting on **Tuesday, February 1 at 7 pm**. We will talk about leadership roles for Vacation Bible School and coordinating the 2011-2012 Sunday School ministries. If you can't make the meeting, please contact Melanie with your ideas.

Food, Friends and Family Event

How does sampling delicious dessert **foods**, and talking and laughing with **friends** while planning a **family** event sound to you? Great! We are looking for 3-5 people who would help plan a family event similar to last year's Mardi Gras for early March, possibly the 5th. Please contact Suzy Smith, Laurie Schroeder, or Melanie Lichtenberg if you can help plan (remember the dessert sampling part...) or if you want to volunteer at the event.

Help with Children's Lent Classes

How do you explain the season of Lent to a child? We want to hear your ideas! What do families do each week of the Lenten journey? Last year we had 20 children participate in Wednesday evening classes during Lent and we'd like to offer this faith formation adventure again, but we need volunteers.

The six Wednesday classes run **March 9 - April 13** following the family dinners, at the same time adults are in the sanctuary with Pastor Jef, 6:40-7:30 pm. Please pray to see if God is leading you to help teach children about getting ready to celebrate Christ Jesus' Resurrection on Easter. Contact Laurie or Melanie if you want to help.

Fifth Grade Faith Stepping Stone



Older elementary students are ready not only to receive Holy Communion in worship, but also to understand it more deeply and to learn how to prepare and assist in offering it to the congregation.

Each year we invite 5th grade students and their parents to a Saturday morning class exploring the meaning of the Lord's Supper through scripture study and bread baking. Students who may have missed in past years or are new to the community are also welcome to attend with an adult. Class is **Saturday, March 5 from 9-11:30 am**. Students will then participate in serving communion during worship on **Sunday, March 6**. Invitations will be sent to our current Sunday School students. Please call the office if you know of another interested student.

Club Destination Travels to Russia

This month's games, music, drama, and crafts at Club Destination will help children learn about the country of Russia. The "truth and consequences" theme is, **"I will tell the truth and honor God."**



Destination

The "tourists" will also discover Bible stories about Jacob and his family. Together, we will explore these questions, while learning the Bible stories:

- **What is truth?** The Servant Tells the Truth, as found in Genesis 24.
 - **What happens when I lie?** Jacob Tells Many Lies. Please read Genesis 25, 27, and 38.
 - **Who always tells the truth?** God Keeps His Promises, as seen in Genesis 28.
 - **What if others have lied to me?** Jacob Gets Tricked. Read the story in Genesis 29.
 - **How can I make truth a habit?** Jacob Gets Out. Find more details in Genesis 30 & 31.
- Tickets are available so register today! Invite a friend to join the fun every Wednesday, from 3:30 - 5:15 PM. Contact Melanie if you have questions or want a "guest" ticket.

Happy February Birthday to these Sunday School Students:

4 th	McKenna Dickey (11)
5 th	Kendra & Maxwell Clemen (4)
7 th	Justin Curtis (6)
9 th	Sophia Wulf (9) & Angela Kortum (11)
10 th	Zach Uter (11)
21 st	Noah Tuchtenhagen (9)
28 th	Kaylee Scheuble (7) & Zane Jude (7) & Anika Pramann (9)
29 th	Edward Johnson (8)

Happy Birthday to volunteer Kris Uter & to Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg!



Worship

Upcoming Worship Events

- February 6 Holy Communion**
February 12 Saturday Awakenings (7 pm)
 “Unfinished Projects” pottery demonstration and worship
February 27 Children sing – ages 3 through 1st grade will sing in church – watch for details

Short-Term Choir for Lent/Easter

We have been missing the Chancel Choir at our late services as they are on hiatus. The plan is to start up again in March to sing a few Sundays during Lent and provide anthems for Easter morning, April 24. Please consider joining the choir on a short-term basis (March & April) to provide this great gift of music to our 10:30 worship service.

Rehearsals will begin in early March, so please watch for details!

Worship Participants Sought

Would you like to occasionally read scripture during worship, or give a children’s message? How about help with computer projection (it’s easy) or learn to run the soundboard? Do you have a musical gift you’d like to share or could you serve as an usher? How about communion server? Do you have ideas for a unique worship service?

The more people we have involved in planning and implementing worship, the richer and more welcoming it is for everyone. PLEASE let us know if you would like to help in some way – even just once in a while!

Worship Attendance

	Early	Late	Total
Jan. 2	134	84	218
Jan. 9	152	110	262
Jan. 15 (Sat)			36
Jan. 16	93	75	168
Jan. 23	145	81	224

Did You Know?

125th Anniversary Planning

We will hold our one and only planning meeting to determine how we acknowledge our church’s 125th Anniversary this year on **Thursday, February 3 at 7 pm**. At this meeting we will let people choose what we will do to acknowledge the milestone, and split up the tasks so hopefully no more meetings will be required. Some of the ideas that have been brought up include:

- Ordering a few commemorative items to sell.
- Planning a historical display
- Ordering apparel items with our church name on
- Worship presence (minor or major) in June or July

Other ideas are welcome and all will be dependent on the energies of lay people to carry them out.

Guatemalan Coffee Now Served

We will soon be drinking “As Green As It Gets” coffee between services and at other church functions. During the December meeting, the Leadership Team voted to approve the purchase and serving of coffee direct from Guatemala for one year. This coffee is produced using environmentally sound practices and with healthy, safe working conditions, then sold directly to consumers through the “As Green As It Gets” cooperative, providing greater profit for growers and workers. Visit their website www.asgreenasitgets.org to read more about their principles and practices.

Many members of our congregation who have gone to Guatemala on Common Hope Vision Teams have met Felix, one of the growers who is producing and selling coffee through this cooperative.

In addition to serving the coffee at church functions, 12 oz bags of whole bean and ground coffee will be available for sale in three different grades...medium roast, dark roast and French roast. We hope you enjoy the coffee!

New Ways to Communicate

The world communicates in so many new ways, and the church has to evolve with the world! Have you checked out our remodeled webpage? (www.BuffaloUMC.org) Did you know we now have a BUMC Facebook page? Just click “like” to start getting event notifications.

We currently communicate via weekly bulletin, weekly e-mail, monthly newsletter, Webpage online, Facebook page online, bulletin boards at church, telephone, snail mail (no offense, postal workers) and face-to-face. Yet we still have people say, I didn’t know that was going on! Please help us to know how best to communicate with you. Suggestions welcome.

Ministry Team Reports

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team focused on two major items at its December meeting. The first item was consideration of revised Articles of Incorporation for BUMC. The second item was an update on pledges received for 2011.

The Finance Team has taken the lead on reviewing and updating the Church’s Articles of Incorporation. The Articles of Incorporation, last updated in the 1960s, is the document that gives the Church its legal identity. The current Articles of Incorporation do not provide a clear legal basis for the Church to make decisions. This became evident when the Church refinanced its mortgage last year, causing a significant delay to close on the new mortgage.

The revised Articles will create a formal Board of Trustees that will be empowered to make the legal decisions that are periodically required. The revised Articles will not impact the ministries of the Church, nor will they change any of the Ministry Teams within the Church. The revised Articles simply clarify how legal issues are decided upon within the Church. A Charge Conference has been scheduled for **January 30** for the congregation to prayerfully consider the proposed changes.

The Finance Team also reviewed the pledges submitted by the congregation for

2011. As of January 18, 2011, the congregation pledged \$293,182 to support the ministries of Buffalo United Methodist Church. While we are blessed by the outpouring of support for Buffalo United Methodist Church’s ministries, pledges are approximately \$7,000 below what the Church needs to continue its current ministries. If you have not filled out a pledge card for 2011, it is not too late. Please pick one up, fill it out and return it to the Church office.

Pre-School Scholarships

Thank you from the finance team and BUMP (Buffalo United Methodist Preschool). This year you have generously donated over \$2,700 for pre-school scholarships. Thank you for your support of this very important ministry. Because of your generosity, seven families have been able to receive a Christian preschool education at BUMP. These children are receiving an education they may not have otherwise received without your help. And in these uncertain economic times the need is still great. To contribute to BUMP pre-school scholarships, simply make your check out to BUMC and put “BUMP pre-school scholarships” in the memo portion of your check.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14

Apportionments for 2011

We are fortunate to be part of a connectional church, and apportionments are the local financial commitment we make to the greater United Methodist Church. This amount is calculated by the conference using a formula based on membership, operating budget and other factors. The funds are used to support mission infrastructures, administration, pensions, ministry training and so much more!

The total amount BUMC is asked to pay for 2011 is \$47,322, which works out to \$114.30 per member. Some people feel good about paying that amount up front in addition to their regular giving; others consider it to be a part of their regular pledge. Either way, we want you to be aware that as a member of this congregation, \$114.30 is sent on to the conference on your behalf out of our general fund.

Fun and Fellowship

Ozark Jubilee Tickets Available

Our BUMC Men's Fellowship is accepting ticket orders for the **April 8 & 9** performances of *Ozark Jubilee*. Show times are 2:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Buffalo High School PAC. Ticket prices are \$20. Contact Ivan Erickson to reserve your tickets. Invite your friends and neighbors, too!

For more information, refer to the posters on the bulletin board or on the information table in the entryway. The BUMC youth will again serve a dinner following the Saturday show and there are tickets available for that at \$12. Please see Ivan Erickson or Jana Knutson if interested in tickets for the dinner.

Attend a Summer Camp!

Methodist summer camping information for all ages is now available. Camp is a great opportunity to try new things, meet new people and grow in faith. Current 5th graders receive a \$100 gift from the church to use towards any UM camp experience.

Scholarships are also available for anyone needing some help with the registration fee. Contact Jana at church for more information on camps and scholarships.



"... And another thing. Last week I asked not to be led into temptation."

Our Church Family

Prayer Ministries

For prayer requests that you wish to have on the Prayer Circle, please call the church office. Prayer requests are handled sensitively, but are considered non-confidential. We also have an e-mail option to receive prayer requests. If you wish to be part of the prayer ministries by phone or e-mail, contact the church office.

Prayer Concerns:

- Continued healing for Martha Grimme as she continues her cancer treatments in South Dakota.
- For Ed & Erva Hance recovering from a car accident on New Year's Day.
- Cy Caspers, father of Karen Caspers-Butler, as he continues to work with doctors on some medical/health issues.
- Lynette, friend of Traci Torgerson, who was just diagnosed with thyroid cancer.
- For Teddy (wife, Judy), uncle of Traci Torgerson who will have an angiogram on Tues for two blocked arteries.
- The people of Haiti who continue to live in unsafe and unclean conditions, and deal with the devastation left following the earthquake over a year ago.

Joys and Celebrations:

- Celebration of the baptism of Ella Rae Emons, daughter of Benjamin and Melissa and sister of Ezra and Elsa.

Thank You from:

- Willis & Esther Kiphuth: "Thank you to everyone who sent cards and supported us when Willis' brother died."
- Martha Grimme: "Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. It is beautiful and much appreciated. We hope to see you soon, but first will need to get from Sioux Falls to swing bed, and then home. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. God Bless."



Families & Faith

By Melanie Lichtenberg

Family Ministries Pastor

During February, I encourage each of us to take time to be thankful for healthy relationships, those that are healing, and for new friendships. Mentioning new relationships, your generosity with Buffalo's Love, INC (In the Name of Christ) organization is inspirational! Thank you for the clothing, blankets, and toys. More than 80 items were donated at the Sunday School Epiphany party, for the lullaby ministry.

Let's take time to nurture and care for important relationships. First, we shall consider the relationship God has with us. Oh, how the Lord loves us! Let these words bless your soul:

- "God is love." – 1 John 4:16.
- God says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." – Jeremiah 31:3
- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believe in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." – John 3:16.
- "Nothing can separate us from the love of God." – Romans 8:35-39.

What joy fills our hearts, hearing and remembering God's steadfast love! Love songs pour from our hearts, with such praises as found in:

- "We shall love the Lord our God with all our hearts, souls, and strength." – Deuteronomy 6:5.
- "I love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer." – Psalm 18:1-2.

God promises us to bless us 100 times, when we share His blessings. How amazing is God's math? Pray and see who you can tell about God's love:

- God's love is "patient and kind...and rejoices in the truth. God's love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. God's love never ends." – 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.
- "This is God's commandment, that we love one another...We love, because God first loved us." – 1 John 3: 23, 4:19.

My February prayer for you is, "I pray that you may know God's love and that your love may overflow more and more." Amen.

Birth to Two-Year-Old-Children:

1. Read Matthew 19:13-15. Jesus welcomes all.
2. Sing: Jesus Loves Me or Jesus Loves the Little Children.
3. Pray: *Dear Jesus, Thank You for arms to hug. Thank you for family and friends. We love You. Amen.*

Preschool Children:

1. Read Matthew 7:12, the "Golden Rule," and Matthew 22:36-39, the greatest commandment.
2. Sing: "It's about Love, Love, Love, that's what it's all about."
3. Pray: *Dear God, we thank You for loving us, for loving everyone in the whole world! Amen.*

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade Children:

1. Read the Lord's Prayer, in Matthew 6:9 –13. Talk about God's relationship of love and trust with us, as He will protect and provide for us.
2. Sing the song: I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing.
3. Pray together: *The Lord's Prayer.*

4th - 6th Graders:

1. Read Matthew 14:13-21. Talk about the relationships of love, trust, and hope in the story.
2. Song: "Your Love" by Brandon Heath.
3. Pray: *Thank You, God, for the simple ways we can share Your blessings of love. Amen.*

Contact Melanie Lichtenberg,
Family Ministries Pastor at
melaniebmc@bwig.net or call (763) 682-3538
with any questions or ideas for family ministry.



PRESCHOOL STAFF:

Gloria Farwick, director & 3-year-old teacher
Jody Brings, 4-5-year-old teacher
Christine Hartke, teaching assistant

What's Up in Preschool?

January's cold, snowy weather cooperated beautifully to help us learn about the season of winter! Although we couldn't go outside to play, we brought the snow inside to our sand/water table, we did science



experiments with freezing and thawing, we built lots of snowmen with styrofoam balls, paper plates, and white paint, and we learned a lot about polar bears and penguins. We ended the month helping our local feathered friends by making bird feeders and hanging them outside on the church's recycled Christmas tree. Pastor Melanie came in for another visit and extended our learning about where God is and how he is with us all the time.

February will be a VERY exciting month in preschool as we start registering students for next year! All current families and members of BUMC get priority registration in the month of February, and then open registration begins on March 1.

On February 13 you'll see staff and students in worship, via a preschool slide show prior to worship and a live presentation during announcements. In the afternoon, we will host an **Open House in the preschool rooms from 2:00 – 5:00** so prospective families can tour our wonderful facility, meet the staff, and get informed about what we have to offer. In 2011-12, we will be offering a two day class (9:00 – 11:30) for 3 year olds, and a three day class (9:00 – 11:30 or 9:00 – 1:00) for our 4/5 year olds.

The 9:00 – 1:00 Lunch Bunch class is new and we are excited to offer this three-day-a-week option for the older students. Please pass the word to any young families who have preschool needs, and be sure they are invited to the Open House on Sunday, February 13!

Of course, February is always exciting for preschoolers as we emphasize love and friendship, culminating with our Valentine Parties. During the last two weeks of the month, the preschool will be transformed into a tropical water world as we study oceans, water, sea animals---and then escape winter with our Beach Party, complete with limbo and beach volleyball!

All in all, February will be fabulous!!

Gloria Farwick, director

Connection Points

Ministries and fellowship opportunities meeting at regularly scheduled times

United Methodist Women

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month



All women are invited to come at 1:30 pm and spend time in fellowship, and to learn more about the missions supported by the UMW.

This month: Tuesday, February 8 at 1:30 pm at church

Program: Gretta Nelson will share our program entitled "Sharing Love Through Written Notes."

Devotions: Arlene Nelson

Hostesses: Jean Vokaty and Glorianne Kobbe

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, February 12, 7:30 am (DATE CHANGE)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every 4th Monday at Arlene Nelson's home



Gather at 1:30 pm to knit or crochet shawls for people who might be homebound, in the hospital, grieving, or in other challenging situations. May participate in ministry even if you can't attend the sessions. Call Arlene Nelson (682-2384) with questions.

This month: Monday, February 28, 1:30 pm

Grief Support Group

Every 4th Tuesday of the month



Sessions run from 6:30-8:00 pm including a brief presentation and opportunity for personal, confidential sharing and support. All are welcome. Call Gretta Nelson at 682-4137 if questions.

This month: Tuesday, February 22, 6:30 pm

Diners Out Fellowship Gathering

Every 3rd Thursday of the month

Gather at Perkins at 5:00 pm for food and fellowship. Primarily active seniors, but all are welcome! Call Sara Gaeth at 682-4964 if questions.



This month: Thursday, February 17, 5:00 pm

YOUTH

NEWS TO HELP PUT YOU IN YOUTH MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 2011

IF A BROTHER OR SISTER LACKS FOOD AND ONE OF YOU SAYS, "GO IN PEACE," AND YET DO NOT SUPPLY THEIR BODILY NEEDS, WHAT IS THE GOOD OF THAT? FAITH IF IT HAS NO WORKS IS DEAD. JAMES 2:15-17

Love Hungry is the theme of this year's 30 Hour Famine. How do we love hungry? We learn about hunger. We raise funds. We experience the effects of hunger for 30 hours. Best of all, according to World Vision, is that we have the opportunity to make a difference and to save lives.

The BUMC Youth Famine begins Friday, February 25 at 12:30 pm. Youth will be arriving at church at 6 pm that night to spend the rest of the famine as a community. Through activities, study, discussion and mission, we'll learn more about the devastating effects of hunger and what we can do to help combat it.

What can you do? Sponsor a youth in their famine pledges. \$1 feeds a child for a day. We will be bagging groceries at Cub Saturday, February 26 in the morning. Adult volunteers are needed for transportation and supervision of this activity. Volunteers are also needed to provide and/or serve our break the fast meal at 6 pm on Saturday. You can join us (in body or spirit) and fast along with us for 30 hours.

If you are interested in being a part of the 30 Hour Famine, talk to Jana and Love Hungry with us.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 4-6: UMYs

Feb. 25-26: 30 Hour Famine

Feb. 27: reForm 5-7

March 9: Ash Wednesday

Donations: Items, Time and Talent

- Adult Volunteers for the 30 Hour famine: grocery bagging help, chaperones, break-the-fast meal and general financial support

Summer 2011

In July of 2011, youth from all over the nation will gather for the National UM Youth Gathering. BUMC Youth will join with other youth from all over Minnesota to travel to Indiana and be a part of this great gathering. Information has been mailed to all Senior High Youth.

Activities for Youth and their Families

- Food shelves are in constant need of nonperishable foods as well as volunteers
- Feed My Starving Children is one example of a meal packaging mission. Volunteers are always needed
- Consider fasting for one meal for one day and giving the money saved on that meal to a food shelf or hunger mission. Make a bigger impact by skipping a restaurant meal and donating that amount.
- February is BUMC's month for Meals on Wheels...grab your favorite youth and sign up for a weekend shift or two.

THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF CARING ADULT VOLUNTEERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT WITH ANY OF THE MENTIONED EVENTS OR IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA /OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUTH, TALK TO MIKE OR JANA ANYTIME.
JANABUMC@BWIG.NET OR AT HOME-320-286-2074 (LOCAL-METRO FOR MOST)

February 2011

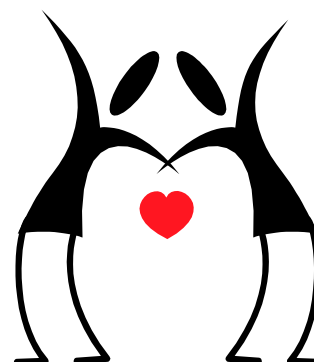
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 8:15 am Joyful Praise Worship 9:20-10:20 am Fellowship & Education 10:30 am Traditional Worship		1 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Property Team meeting 7:30 pm Preschool Advisory Board 7:00 pm Sunday School Planning Meeting	2 3:30 pm Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team	3 7:00 pm 125 th Anniversary Meeting	4 8:00 pm AA	5
6 <i>Holy Communion Made by God</i> 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	7 7:30 pm AA	8 10:30 am AA 1:30 pm UMW 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting	9 3:30 pm Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Faith Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team	10	11 8:00 pm AA	12 7:30 am United Methodist Men 7:00 pm Saturday Awakenings – <i>Unfinished Projects</i>
13 <i>Made to Love</i> Preschool sing in church 2:00 – 5:00 pm Preschool Open House 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	14 6:30 BeFrienders 7:30 pm AA Valentine's Day	15 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	16 3:30 pm Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team	17 5:00 pm Diners Out at Perkins	18 8:00 pm AA	19
20 <i>Made to Worship</i> 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	21 11:30 am – 3:00 pm MS Support Group 7:30 pm AA President's Day	22 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm Grief Support 7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting	23 3:30 pm Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team	24	25 8:00 pm AA Youth Event – 30 Hr Famine	26 Youth Event – 30 Hr Famine
27 <i>Made to Serve</i> 5:00 pm ReForm 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	28 1:30 Prayer Shawls at Arlene Nelson's 7:30 pm AA					

Meals on Wheels Month

Schedules

Coffee Server Schedule	
February 6	Unidos en Cristo
February 13	
February 20	
February 27	
Usher Schedule	
8:15 am	
Feb. 6	Kevin & Cindy Heap
Feb. 13	Barb Odenthal/Marjorie Zacharda
Feb. 20	Bruce & Barb Schmidt
Feb. 27	Georgia & Keith Docherty
10:30 am	
Feb. 6	Bill Augustin & Ivan Erickson
Feb. 13	Lloyd Link & Steve Lichtenberg
Feb. 20	Pat McAlister & Linda Bostic
Feb. 27	Del & Joyce Dietz

Looking Ahead... Items to Put on Your Calendar	
February 4-6	UMY's Senior High Youth Gathering
February 12	"Unfinished Projects" Saturday Awakenings Celebration
February 13	Preschool Open House
March 9	Ash Wednesday
April 8-9	Ozark Jubilee Shows sponsored by UM Men
April 24	Easter Sunday



Information

Resources

Current issues of the *Upper Room*, *Alive Now*, *Pockets (for children)*, and *DevoZine* are available in the entryway for a nominal donation.

Prayer Requests

Use the cards available in the attendance pads to make prayer requests.

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. Indicate if you will bring your own, or place your check for \$39 in the offering marked "flowers" and we will order.

Welcome Gatherings

Welcome Gatherings to learn more about BUMC are held every first Sunday of the month at 9:20 am in the Fellowship Hall September through May.

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
609 8th Street Northwest
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-3538

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage
 PAID
 Buffalo, MN 55313
 Permit No. 31

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

E-Mail:
 BuffaloUMC@BWIG.net

Website
www.BuffaloUMC.org

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

Staff	
Pastor	Jef Olson
Pastor Emeritus	Del Kurtz
Lay Associate Minister	Laurie Schroeder
Youth Leaders	Jana & Mike Knutson
Family Ministries	Melanie Lichtenberg
Bookkeeper/Admin.	Sarah Klett
Nursery Attendant	Theresa Jacobs
Custodians	Dan/Traci Torgerson
Handbell Director	Jill Starr
Chancel Choir Director	Karen Argue
Organist	David Gaeth
Accompanist	Kathie Denison
Preschool Director	Gloria Farwick
Preschool Teacher	Jody Brings
Preschool Assistant	Christine Hartke