



The Joy Connection

January 2011

A monthly publication of Buffalo United Methodist Church

Worship Events

January 2

Making & Breaking Bread

John 15:1-8

Holy Communion

January 9

MRI Church – So Beautiful

Matthew 16:13-20

1 Peter 2:4-10

**January 15, 7:00 pm
Saturday Celebration**

Comfort and Joy

January 16

MRI Church – So Missional

Matthew 28:16-20

January 23

MRI Church – So Relational

Acts 2:1, 43-47

January 30

MRI Church – So

Incarnational

Philippians 2:5-8

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Sunday Schedule

8:15 am

Joyful Praise Worship

9:20 – 10:20 am

Fellowship & Education Hour

10:30 am

Traditional Celebration

New Beginnings in 2011

Even as we peek around the corner at 2011, we remain fully aware of God's blessing us in the year that now draws to a close. We are a faith community that humbly celebrates our place in Jesus' continuing ministry of sharing God's love with all. We are blessed that, as a congregation in existence for 124 years, we continue to be a gospel-based, service/outreach-driven expression of Wesleyan theology. Thanks be to God for what has been, what is now and what is yet to come as we minister together in Jesus' name.

So, what does God have in store for us in 2011? Whatever opportunities God has ready for us to grab hold of as individuals and as a congregation, one thing is for sure – we must take steps to be prepared. God doesn't place before us anything we can't handle, that is, anything we can't handle when we use the gifts God has given us. Lest we forget, even God-given gifts require our participation in making them as functional and useful as God intends them to be.

One of the areas of faith I am hoping and praying we pay special attention to in 2011 is our listening skills – listening to God directly and to God speaking to us through others. As we continue to practice the art of holy listening, we will find that our faith takes on an entirely new dimension.

To become a holy listener we must be willing to change our understanding of the world and the way we are called to live in it. A few hundred years ago, astrologers came to the conclusion that the universe did not revolve around the earth. Some listened; others did not. Down through the ages, those who chose to become holy listeners discovered that they are not the center of the universe either. In fact, the world did not revolve around them at all. What they heard and believed is that everything revolves around God and God's word at work in us – good advice for us as well. Let the year 2011 be the year we become holy listeners – praying, studying, sharing our ideas, respecting others, practicing patience in the process, and loving God and the relationships God calls us into in the coming year(s).

A second area of faith on my mind and heart is that all participants in the life of BUMC find a spiritual niche in which to grow and prosper. Let us begin each faith venture together by discerning how what we are doing fulfills God's call upon us as individuals and as a congregation. As we take a next step and then another, are we able to express why and how that step is consistent with our calling and our purpose as the church – to cultivate spiritual vitality and reach out to new people in Jesus' name.

As we are transformed by God's love we are privileged to be agents of transformation wherever we live, work, and play as we make the world a better place for everyone. In this way, every New Year will be marked by new beginnings woven together by the hope, peace, joy and love that come from God alone.

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
Laurie Schroeder	763-682-4409
Pastor Jef Olson	763-682-3538

Spiritual Growth

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, January 15, 6:00 pm Fellowship and Prayer Shawl Demo **7:00 pm “Comfort and Joy” Service**

Enjoy a hymn sing and the warmth of a prayer shawl. This service will include your favorite songs (a request box will be out in December) and some stories and history about prayer shawls and hymns. At 6:00 pm join us for refreshments and a demonstration on how prayer shawls are made. Handouts and patterns will be available. Dave Gaeth and other musicians will lead the singing at the service at 7:00 pm. Come to one or both parts of the evening.

Saturday, February 12, 6 & 7 pm **“You the Unfinished Project”**

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 and fellowship at 6:00 pm followed by service at 7:00 pm.

Awakenings Covenant Team

Saturday Awakenings events help us move forward with the congregational goal of new “portals of entry,” so we ask you to consider signing a covenant to attend as many as you are able. By providing a “critical mass in the pews” and consistent and welcoming hospitality to guests, we are more likely to successfully connect with our guests.

As part of the covenant, you choose the commitment level that suits you – either 4-6 or 7-10 times that you will plan to attend 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

New Outreach Ministry Discussion

Another congregational goal is to find new ways to reach out to the community. We will kick off the new year with an open forum on ministries that will help us meet that goal on **Thursday, January 6 at 7 pm**. If you have a heart for mission, we strongly encourage you to come. The following will be discussed, in addition to any new ideas brought to the table:

- Recently a program was suggested called **Angel Food Ministries** which allows a host site (potentially us) to provide monthly packages of food to anyone who registers for a price far below the value of the food.
- The **Wesley Meal** program will probably not continue so we may want to consider new community outreach opportunities for our confirmation students and others.
- **Love Inc. (Love in the Name of Christ)** has now established a local chapter and we have been invited and encouraged as a congregation to become active. This organization joins churches together to enable them to coordinate resources and services to those in need. They provide both long-term and immediate help to those in the community.

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

January has arrived. The middle of winter is upon us and how we long for warm weather. How did the year 2010 leave so quickly? My father always told me, "Robin, the older you get the faster time goes by – days, months, years." How true that statement is, and I'm sure many of our "established" church members agree. But I refuse to grow old – at least mentally. Physically, well, I really don't have control over that.

Anyway, back to January our Sunday School year will be half over by month end. Our attendance always seems to drop after the holidays, so I challenge our parents to make a strong commitment to bring your child(ren) to Sunday School each week. We have wonderful teachers. They are committed to being here and they prepare the lessons for all the students. Start the New Year with consistent attendance (and don't forget that offering)!

On January 2 there will be an Epiphany/New Year's Party during the regular SS hour. Don't miss it! (See following article.)

During January, our 3 year olds through 5th graders will be hearing the stories Jesus told – Parables. Stories of: The Two Houses, The Mustard Seed, The Unforgiving Servant, The Lost Sheep & The Forgiving Father. Our 6th graders will be learning about Jesus' Ministry: Jesus is Baptized, Jesus begins Ministry, Disciples Called, The Beatitudes & Two Houses. Did you know that our 6th graders do

mission projects every month? Ask Kris Dirks, our fabulous 6th grade teacher, who lines up mission projects for the kids to do outside the church on what they have been doing &/or will be doing. You would be amazed at all they have done already!

We want to thank Jody Brings for heading up the Children's Christmas Program. It was wonderful! The kids did a fabulous job and the church was packed! Thank you to everyone who helped – teachers, parents, helpers, etc.

Reminder about inclement weather listen to KRWC 1360 AM radio if you are not sure whether church/Sunday School will be cancelled. It will be announced on that radio station.

Our 1st graders will be involved with their Faith Stepping Stone on "prayer." See the following article for details.

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone!

First Grade Faith Stepping Stone

Our first graders will learn about prayer in a special training session on January 8, which is one of their Faith Stepping Stones in our church. Parents should be on the lookout for a letter in the mail about this. How special it is that parents and their 1st grade children can learn about prayers together.

Then on **Sunday, January 9** students will receive prayer books and a congregational blessing during worship. They each receive a special gift from the church to help them remember what prayers are, why we pray and all the different prayers there are. We ask that parents please make this special effort to attend. Any students in 2nd grade who did not attend last year are also encouraged to attend, please notify the church office of your plans.

Epiphany (New Year's) SS Party

The Sunday School students will have a special New Year's/Epiphany Party on **January 2** during the Sunday School hour. Children should just go to their classrooms and they will go from there. There will be special activity stations and stories about the Wise Men. Children are encouraged to invite a friend, and also to bring a wrapped baby gift if possible which will be donated to charity.

Great “Travel” Rates for Flights with Club Destination

Passports and airline tickets are ready for children in Grades K-5 who love to travel, meet new friends, and explore God’s big world. Every Wednesday, from 3:30 – 5:30 pm we provide games, music, drama, and crafts. The healthy snacks are great, thanks to the planning of our new volunteer, Phyllis Griffith!



During January and February, children will discover that consequences of lying and telling the truth affect both us and others. The weekly activities will help kids apply the Life Verse to their daily lives. It’s found in Colossians 3:9-10, **Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self.**

Children will meet Shamus Snitch, a superspy who never catches his man. In an espionage world, where it’s hard to know what’s true or false, Shamus can’t even remember his real name, much less his mission directive! But by the end of our trip, Shamus will have discovered there are some things you can always trust to be true.

Registration forms are available at church. The cost is just \$20 per child for both Winter and Spring quarters, with a family max of \$50. The option to pay \$10/quarter is available, as well as scholarships. Sign your kids up now to “travel” to the largest country in the world!

Spies, Drivers, and Fun-loving Volunteers Needed



Our Wednesday after-school program needs more volunteers for January 5, 12, 19, and 26. Pray and see if where the Holy Spirit is leading you to be one of these:

1. Drama person who reads from a prepared script, from 4 – 4:45 pm.

2. Crossing Guard, from 3:40 – 3:50 pm on the corner of 8th Street and County Road 12.
3. Walking school bus “driver,” from 3:15 – 3:50 to join our volunteers as they walk with the children from Northwinds Elementary School back to church.
4. Faith-Friend from 4- 4:45 pm to come and sit with a group of 5 children, in the sanctuary. Their joy and energy will bless you. You will learn the coolest kid songs with action movements, as well as the Bible stories about Jacob and his family. **Bonus:** you have a free “ticket” to travel to Russia.

Contact Melanie Lichtenberg, Family Ministries Pastor, at melaniebumc@bwig.net or call (763) 682-3538 with any questions.

Sunday School Leader for 2011

After many years of committed leadership to our Sunday School program, Robin Anderson will step down in May. This creates a need for some new leadership. Robin has really served as both Sunday School team chair and what most church’s would call SS superintendent, so perhaps we could split up the job into separate roles to make it easier.

Please prayerfully consider whether you might be a candidate to cover some of the tasks that need to be done. We encourage you to ask questions or shadow” Robin and Glenda some Sunday to learn more about what needs doing weekly. We want to keep our SS program as strong as possible through a transition in leadership, so your support and ideas are encouraged! Please let someone know if you might consider helping out starting in May,

Happy January Birthday to these Sunday School Students:

2 nd	Kelsey VanValkenberg (6)
4 th	Tony Fouquette (12)
11 th	Naveah Lindsay (7)
13 th	Spencer Hanson (6)
18 th	Emily Weese (7)
28 th	Amy Highberg (8)
30 th	Emily Christian (8)
31 st	Ryan Christian (10)

Also to our volunteers: Suzy Smith, Sarah Urick & Robin Anderson

Worship

Upcoming Worship Events

- January 2** **Making & Breaking Bread Communion** - An aroma filled worship experience is in store for us as we begin a new year of worship and service together.
- January 9** **1st Grade Faith Stepping Stone Blessing – A Life of Prayer**
- January 15** **Saturday Celebration (7 pm)– Comfort & Joy**
- January 16** **Human Relations Offering**

Worship Attendance

	Early	Late	Total
Dec. 5	160	121	281
Dec. 12	(cancelled)	57	57
Dec. 18 (Sat)			62
Dec. 19	170	109	279
Dec. 26	74	46	120

Did You Know?

Disciple Bible Study is Exciting!

We three Kings of Orient are...oops, wrong opening. We seven people of BUMC are...taking the next step! Did you know there are seven of us meeting weekly to study scripture?

It was scary to sign up for the Disciple Bible Study because it's a big commitment, but we are enjoying the study! A workbook guides us through which chapters to read each day, and then at our Sunday evening sessions a video is shown. We like sharing our understanding and questions each week, which opens doors in our minds and gives us an awareness of and connection to the lives around us.

Ask any of us about Disciple Bible Study:

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

July National Youth Conference

More Than a gathering:

It's a commUNITY to know you are not alone.

More Than a concert:

It's commUNION with our extraordinary God.

More Than an event:

It's a comMISSION to change your life and your world.

Every four years there is a national United Methodist Youth Gathering and it's happening July of 2011. It's National UMY's! The four-day conference at Purdue Campus in Indiana is sure to be a life-changing event, and we're hoping many BUMC youth have the opportunity to go. We can travel with other Minnesota youth on coach buses for a price of \$585, including the conference registration fee, lodging and meals.

We are committed to helping every youth who wants to attend. Fundraising efforts will begin in January. Please contact Mike or Jana if you have an idea for a fundraiser or would like to help out with scholarships for this fantastic opportunity.

The National Youth Gathering was selected as this summer's youth trip because:

- The opportunity to be a part of something that big, and to worship with youth from across the country is an amazing experience. And since it only happens every four years, youth only have one shot at going!
- We can travel with youth from across the state, making connections that are generally limited to UMYs.
- The shorter duration of this trip will hopefully allow youth who are unable to commit to 10-day trips to participate.
- It follows with our philosophy of providing four different travel opportunities with the youth group during a student's high school career: Rural Mission, Urban Mission, Local Mission and National Gathering.

125th Anniversary in 2011

We need to act soon to determine how we acknowledge our church's 125th Anniversary in 2011. If you might be a team chairperson or serve on the team, let Laurie know soon so we can meet right away. This could be as simple as ordering commemorative items, or more of an event if desired by the team.

Ministry Team Reports

Finance Team Update

The Finance Team highlights two topics this month:

Electronic Giving

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Buffalo United Methodist Church offers Electronic Giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. If the Minnesota winter weather sometimes makes it difficult to get to church, the church's financial needs can still be met because your offering was received electronically! It allows you to avoid having to make up the difference later.

Since Buffalo United Methodist Church began offering our automated giving program, 33 families have chosen to participate. Several families have told us how much they like the program for its convenience. They also mentioned how much they appreciate that their financial gifts to Buffalo United Methodist Church continue even if they are out of town or unable to attend a worship service. Perhaps electronic giving is a way to help you achieve your stewardship goal for BUMC. You can sign up for electronic giving at any time by completing an authorization form. Contact the church office for more details.

Pre-School Scholarships

Thank you from 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

Offering Envelopes Available

If you want offering envelopes for 2011, but have not received them, we are happy to provide a set to you. Just contact the church staff or write your name on the sheet at church.

2010 Contributions Wrap-Up

All contributions toward 2010 general fund and/or apportionments must be in the church office by **January 2**.

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 begins cancer treatments.
- Bill Miller, son of Wanda Miller, who is continuing cancer treatments.
- Cy Caspers as he continues to work with doctors on some medical/health issues.
- Lynette, friend of Traci Torgerson, who was just diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

Joys and Celebrations:

- We celebrate the birth of Connor John Smude born on December 23 to Andrew and Sheila (Otness) Smude. Proud grandparents are Ottie and Rita Otness.
- Celebration for the great ministry provided by our congregation's volunteers at both the Christmas Eve services and our Christmas Day Dinner. You touched many lives!



Families & Faith

By Melanie Lichtenberg

Family Ministries Pastor

What's your favorite season of the year? I have a hard time choosing between the beautiful colors of autumn and the tree buds of new life. I'm like a little kid excited to spy the first daffodil or tulip!

Yes, I am daydreaming about rainbow colors and warm temperatures. December has been a reflective time for me, seeing how God has flowed in my life during 2010. I also ask the Lord to prepare me for His Spirit's movement, helping me take the next step of faith, in 2011. With January's arrival, my New Year's resolutions are strong.

And, I delight in the longer daylight hours. The stars, moonlight, sunrises, and sunsets fill me with wonder. What Bible stories or verses do you read or use to praise to our Creator? Please share with me, as I'm looking for new Bible verses to memorize. I've started with Psalm 27:1,

“The Lord is my Light and my Salvation!”

When reading Matthew 2:1-12 story, we learn about the January 6th's celebration, “Epiphany of the Lord.” Wait a minute. What's that “e” word? It's pronounced ih-pif-uh-nee.

Christ Jesus is our King! He is the Light of the world! Together, let's read and remember the Bible stories of the Three Wisemen, Jesus' baptism, and His first miracle at the wedding of Cana. Each story will help us continue our God Sightings, finding our Holy Savior in our daily lives.

As Deborah White, associate editor of the Methodist's Interpreter Magazine, stated, “The symbol of Epiphany is light. It's a time to absorb the message of Christmas...to spread the light of God's love through Jesus.” Please use/adapt Deborah's ideas on this page, to make the candle of faith, hope, and love shine bright in your hearts and homes.

Birth to Two-Year-Old-Children:

1. Use your own words, to talk about the Wise Men's travelling a long time, following a star, and finding Jesus.
2. Song suggestions: “Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,” or “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”
3. Pray: *Dear God, thanks for making flashlights and night lights, the sun, moon and stars. Amen.*

Preschool Children:

1. Read the baptism of Jesus, in Matthew 3:13-17.
2. Song suggestion: “This Little Light of Mine,” “Rise, Shine, Give God the Glory (song about Noah and Ark.)
3. Light your child's baptismal candle. Share pictures and stories from your child's special day.
4. Pray: *Dear God, we thank You for blessing us with love and Your light! We jump for joy, to be Your child! Amen.*

Kindergarten – 3rd Grade Children:

1. Read Matthew 2:1-12. Older kids could read to you!
2. Treasure hunt: Adults hide stars and play the “hot and cold” game as the children are searching your home, trying to find Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus (a doll that you want to use for this activity.) Kids can hide stars too.
3. Song Suggestions: We Three Kings, O Come Let us Adore Him.
4. Pray: *Dear Jesus, Thank You for walking with us. Bless us with Your Holy Spirit so we'll walk to the music of Your love and the tempo of Your joy. Amen.*

4th - 6th Graders:

1. Find connecting themes when reading Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12. (*Light, who comes to the King, ect.*)

Songs: “We are Marching in the Light of God,” “Shine, Jesus, Shine,” “I saw the Light,”
3. Pray: *Dear God, please help us follow Your light of love and help us carry Your Light for others to see their way to worship You. Amen.*



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?

The "choirs" of preschoolers had lots of practice in the month of December, culminating with delightful music programs on the 21st and 22nd. The 3-year-olds also sang for the UMW's Christmas luncheon on the 14th and truly proved they were "Ten Little Angels" like their song said!

In December we excitedly launched Lunch Bunch, which offers



the option to bring a bag lunch and extend the preschool day program to 1:00 on Thursdays and Fridays of each week. Thirteen of our 22 preschoolers participated with Mrs. Hartke teaching. We will continue to offer this extended opportunity if interest stays high.

After a Winter Break, classes will resume on January 3. During the month of January we will concentrate on the season of winter for our studies and activities. We will learn about the animals, weather and activities of the season, bring snow inside to our sand/water table, and play outside often if the weather permits. Our backyard sliding hill and snow "mountains" from plowing are such fun!

We are happy to be welcoming a new three-year-old into our Tuesday/Friday class in January! And we are very thankful for the ongoing financial support from some members of our congregation, so that four of our preschool families can continue to receive some financial support in 2011.

Christmas Blessings to ALL from the preschool staff and students!

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, January 11 at 1:30 pm at church

Program: Mary Johnson will share a video with us titled "Windows & Mirrors – Reaching Out to the World."

Hostesses: Sara Gaeth

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, January 15, 7:30 am

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, January 24, 1:00 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, January 25, 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, January 20, 5:00 pm

YOUTH

NEWS TO HELP PUT YOU IN YOUTH MINISTRY

JANUARY 2011

FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN, AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDERS. AND HE WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE. ISAIAH 9:6

We received new sleeping bags for Christmas this year. Jana took our old ones and fashioned them into a dog bed. Now it is a very inviting, flannel side out, soft and fluffy looking pile of warm goodness. Frankly, I wouldn't mind taking a nap on it.

I'm sure Diego would love it, but he never uses it. Instead he lays down wherever we are. On the cold wooden floor of our kitchen as we cook, by our feet when we are on the couch, and next to the bed at night. (Mind you next to the bed is 3 feet away from said dog bed.) Diego places being with us higher on his priorities than his comfort.

To me, this is a metaphor for Christmas. God gave up many comforts and became fully human just to show how much he wants to be with us. Instead of laying next to our bed, he stood there and healed people. Rather than just sitting at people's feet, he washed them. And the cold wood that he was stretched out and nailed upon is the ultimate act of relationship. He shows us that he will do anything to make sure that nothing keeps us from being with him.

Parent Connection

In-home faith conversations are so important to developing a relationship with God. Use these questions as a starting point:

*Where do you feel challenged in your faith?
How does this make you feel "uncomfortable"?
How do you push through the uncomfortable and move closer to God?*

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 5: Fun Night
- Jan. 9: re:Form
- Feb. 4-6: UMYs
- Feb. 25-26: 30 Hour Famine

Donations: Items, Time and Talent

- Drivers and chaperones for UMYs
- Adult Volunteers for the 30 Hour famine

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.

Resources for Youth and their Families






The new year is a great time to take on a challenge, either as a family or an individual. Try family memorization verses, keeping prayer journals, adding a devotion to your family time or working on a service project together.

- www.bibleplan.org
- icanhelptwincities.com
- www.upperroom.org/devotional

Does your family have a devotion book or other resource you use? We'd love to hear about it!

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)

January 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 Celebration Worship						1 New Year's Day
2 <i>Three Resolutions of Faith</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:20 S.S. New Year's Party 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	3 7:30 pm AA	4 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 7:30 pm Preschool Advisory Board	5 3:30 Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth – Fun Night 6:00 pm Confirmation – Fun Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team	6 7:00 pm Outreach Ministry Brainstorming	7 8:00 pm AA	8 9:00 am 1 st Gr Prayer Instruction Class
9 <i>MRI Church-So Beautiful</i> <i>1st Grade FSS – A Life of Prayer</i> 5:00 pm Reform 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	10 6:30 BeFrienders 7:30 pm AA	11 10:30 am AA 1:30 pm UMW 7:00 pm Leadership Meeting	12 3:30 Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Faith Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team		14 8:00 pm AA	15 7:30 am UMM 4:00 pm Wedding 6:00 pm Prayer Shawls & Fellowship 7:00 pm Saturday Celebrations – Comfort & Joy
16 <i>MRI Church – So Missional</i> <i>Human Relations Day</i> 9:00 am Gideon's Table in Northex 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	17 11:30 am MS Support Group 7:30 pm AA	18 10:30 am AA <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	19 3:30 Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team	20 5:00 pm Diners Out at Perkins	21 8:00 pm AA	22 Confirmation Retreat
23 <i>MRI Church – So Relational</i> Confirmation students return 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	24 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry/Arlene 7:30 Pm AA	25 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm Grief Support 7:00 pm Finance Meeting 7:00 pm SPRC Meeting	26 3:30 Club Destination 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth 6:00 pm Confirmation – Focus Night 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Praise Team	27 7:00 pm Partners in Ministry	28 8:pm AA	29 <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
30 <i>MRI Church – So Incarnational</i> 5:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	31 7:30 pm AA					

Schedules

Coffee Server Schedule	
January 2	Unidos en Cristo
January 9	
January 16	Kevin & Cindy Heap
January 23	Barb Odenthal
January 30	Norm & Kathy Varner
Usher Schedule	
8:15 am	
Jan. 2	Kevin & Cindy Heap
Jan. 9	Barb Odenthal/Marjorie Zacharda
Jan. 16	
Jan. 23	Kevin & Cindy Heap
Jan. 30	
10:30 am	
Jan. 2	Bill & Mary Augustin
Jan. 9	Lloyd Link & Steve Lichtenberg
Jan. 16	Pat McAlister & Linda Bostic
Jan. 23	
Jan. 30	

Looking Ahead... Items to Put on Your Calendar	
February 4-6	UMY's Senior High Youth Gathering
February 12	"You the Unfinished Project" Saturday Awakenings Celebration
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

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<p>Buffalo United Methodist Church <i>...serving people for Jesus Christ so that we all may know joy!</i></p> <p>Office Hours: Closed Mondays Tuesday-Thursday – 9 am to 3 pm Friday – 9 am to 1 pm</p> <p>Phone and Fax: 763-682-3538</p> <p>E-Mail: BuffaloUMC@BWIG.net</p> <p>Website www.BuffaloUMC.org</p>
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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