



The Joy Connection

April 2011

A monthly publication of Buffalo United Methodist Church

Worship Events

April 2, 7 pm
Saturday Awakenings
Songs of Faith,
Hope & Justice

April 3
Now I See
John 9: 1-41
One Great Hour of Sharing
Holy Communion

April 10
So That You May Believe
John 11: 1-48
Compassion Sunday

April 17
Our King Is Coming...Again
Matthew 21: 1-11
Palm Sunday

April 21, 7:30 pm
Holy Thursday

April 24
I Have Seen the Lord
John 20: 1-18
Easter Sunday

Sunday Schedule

8:15 am
Joyful Praise Worship

9:20 – 10:20 am
Fellowship & Education Hour

10:30 am
Traditional Celebration

Out of the Shadows and into the Dawn

If the answer is “complex social relationships” then the question must be “What are humans perfectly adapted for?” Bald eagles are perfectly adapted to soar high and see far to hunt for food. Giraffes are perfectly adapted to forage twenty feet off the ground and eat leaves that other herbivores cannot reach. Ostriches are perfectly adapted, not for flight, but for high-speed running to escape Savanna predators. You and I are not adapted to do any of those things, but we are perfectly adapted to developing, nurturing and sustaining complex social relationships that allow us to thrive in virtually any environment or circumstance.

As homo sapiens, we have been conditioned to create community and to do the work necessary to promote the continuity of community even as we encourage the full expression of uniqueness in each individual.

Groups within the community coalesce around location (neighborhoods), age (from pre-schoolers to senior citizens) and/or affinity (bikers, musicians, gardeners, volunteers joining to eradicate a particular injustice or pathology). As has long been observed, there is strength in numbers (*two ants do not fail to pull one grasshopper* – proverb from Haya tribe of Tanzania) and many hands make light work (or, when translated into Haya – *Abema hamoi basindika eitara*). Both proverbs speak to the value of individuals connecting with one another through groups and the groups contributing to the health and welfare of the larger community as the connections and contributions of every group (and of their respective members) are intricately woven by trust in one another and in the achievement of the overall common cause of providing a better life for all.

As Christians, we combine our love of Christ with our adaptability in creating and nurturing rich and complex relationships in what is commonly referred to as *church*. When we, as *church*, are leaning forward and living into the gospel with intensity and vitality we find that we are perfectly adapted as disciples practicing healthy habits that lead to personal holiness and social holiness. In this perfect adaptation, *church* becomes vital to both individuals and to the community at large.

Vital congregations are incubators of spiritual growth and healthy, holistic lifestyles because of how they connect people across lines of location, age and affinity. Adaptively changing congregations understand that, while God is immutable (Hebrews 13.8), human understanding and human response to the Divine does change over time. In the process, we come to know each other and to value the multi-layered, many-faceted aspects of our individual selves. We celebrate the ability God has given us to go deep in our faith and wide in our ministry.

As we gather in the remaining weeks of Lent and then for the glory of Resurrection Sunday, let us commit to permanently moving out of the shadows and into the dawn. We may be unsure as to what tomorrow holds, but we do know that God is there waiting for us to discover and implement new ways to be in ministry together.

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

Larry Totten, Member at Large & Facilitator	763-516-3367
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
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

Wednesdays during Lent



Our Wednesday evening Lent studies will continue through **April 13** with supper at 6:00 pm, followed at 6:40 pm by the study and children's classes. The Lenten reflections are based on the book *Shadows, Darkness and Dawn* by Thomas Steagald.

Thanks to all who have helped serve Lenten meals so far, or will be in coming weeks. Our remaining Lenten dinners are:

- March 30** Sloppy Joes by Chancel Chimes
- April 6** Soup by UMM
- April 13** Scalloped potatoes with ham by Unidos en Cristo

Holy Thursday Worship

In Remembrance of Me – Thursday, April 21, 7:30 pm

Come experience a powerful service re-enacting the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion. As part of our remembrance ritual we will observe Holy Communion and strip the altar. There will be a time of quiet meditation in the sanctuary following the service. You may kneel at the communion rails, or sit in the pews reflecting on your walk to the cross with Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 24

I Have Seen the Lord

Easter Sunday worship services are listed in the worship section of the newsletter. Easter is a great time to invite someone to worship, especially young families who might enjoy our special 9:20 family service.

Membership Class April 16

On **Saturday, April 16 at 9 am** you are welcome to learn more about our congregation's traditions and beliefs just for your education, or in preparation for membership. Those who choose to join will be received as new members during worship on **Sunday, May 1**. For more information, contact Laurie Schroeder or Pastor Jef. Pre-registration is appreciated.

Saturday "Awakenings" Celebrations

These Saturday night events are casual and comfortable for the public as well as our congregation. Please do



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

Saturday, April 2, 6 & 7 pm ***Songs of Faith, Hope and Justice***

- 6:00 pm Soup & bread supper
- 7:00 pm Concert with the ensemble "Bread for the Journey"

Join in singing global songs of faith, hope and justice with Tom Witt and Mary Preus from *Bread for the Journey*. We'll also hear from our 6th graders Ty Heckenlaible and Adrianna Erickson about experiences packaging food at "Kids Against Hunger" in Rockford. The director of that program will also be here to share more about the program.

If you have a heart for reducing hunger both near and far, this program will speak to you! If you haven't been involved, you'll learn about ways you can make a difference! Invite people you know who care about this issue, too. The Buffalo food shelf will also be represented.

Saturday, May 7, 7:00 pm

Carpenter's Tools International

Gretchen Otness and her CTI team will be here once more for a Saturday concert followed by ice cream sundaes. Meet and greet the team members afterwards to hear stories of their experiences as they have travelled the country and to China over the past year.



Mom's Book Club Starting in April

A new book club/discussion group for mothers of young children will be starting at the end of April (after Easter). We'll read and discuss books about motherhood, parenting, partnership, spirituality, inspiration, and life in general. This group will offer great books and great conversation, a place to share your own experience and find validation through the experiences of others. Ideas and suggestions are welcomed. Please call or email Sara Biren if you're interesting in participating or finding out more information. sbiren@embarqmail.com or 952-250-1904.

Experience Unidos en Cristo

Unidos en Cristo (aka Cursillo) is a three-day retreat encounter with God's grace designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people. In Minnesota, over 170 churches participate, including our church! Many from our church have attended a UEC weekend and we invite you to attend one, too!

Upcoming Unidos en Cristo weekends:

Men: July 7-10, 2011

Women: July 14-17, 2011

at Peace Reformed Church in Eagan

Talk with Darla O'Flanagan or someone else who has attended a UEC weekend to learn more. Our UEC participants serve coffee every first Sunday of the month, so ask anyone in the kitchen on those days! You may also view an informational DVD or brochure or visit the website www.unidosencristo.com.

♥ Ministry & Missions

Dollars Raised for Malaria Nets

Since last September our 2nd & 3rd grade Sunday School class has been raising money for the UM "Nothing But Nets" campaign. The nets are used to fight malaria in third world countries. The kids started raising money Sept. and were able to raise \$60 - enough for 6 nets. If you would like to support this cause as well, make a donation payable to BUMC marked "Nothing but Nets" and place in the offering.

Support Stephanie Heyerdahl

Stephanie Heyerdahl goes on a mission trip to Jamaica this summer with Life Church in Eden Prairie. While there they will work with over 1,000 children in a "Bible School-like" summer program.

Stephanie asks you to please pray for her and the team, and if you wish to offer financial support, donations would be greatly appreciated. You may either donate directly to Stephanie, or for a tax deductible gift make checks to Embassy International. Please get donations to Stephanie by **April 2** if possible.

Stephanie says: "Thanks so much for your support. I am excited to answer Christ's call to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation!' Mark 16:15."

One Great Hour of Sharing

Did you know our One Great Hour of Sharing offering allows the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to keep its promise that 100% of all designated gifts go to specific causes? It's true! One Great Hour of Sharing is coming up on **April 3** and your gifts make the international disaster relief work of UMCOR possible by covering UMCOR's staff and administration costs. That means the rest of our donations throughout the year go direct to the cause you request. This organization has an excellent reputation world-wide for being on the scene of a disaster quickly and staying longer than many other relief agencies.

Baby Animal Fair for Heifer Int.

Our church has been asked to sell popcorn and run the "pig booth" at the community-wide Baby Animal Fair at the Buffalo Civic Center on



Sunday, May 1 from noon to 4 pm. This event raises thousands of dollars to support Heifer International's mission work. Let Laurie Schroeder know if you can help.

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

Help Serve Wesley Meal April 30

We have a fifth Saturday this month with the opportunity to serve a meal for disadvantaged people at Wesley UMC in Minneapolis on **Saturday, April 30**. Please consider helping with this wonderful outreach. No experience necessary – workers will be directed by the facilitator.

Confirmation students have chosen and/or been assigned a specific Wesley date to serve, so please check your class calendars. We also need a few more adults or youth to help, too. We leave church at 8 am and return around 2:30 pm. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Buffalo UMC Hosts District UMW

The Big Waters District Spring Gathering of United Methodist Women will be hosted by our Buffalo UMW on **Saturday, April 30 from 9:00-2:30**. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and “Muffins with Emma” will be served along with a time for book browsing and a paper products collection for Emma Norton.

UMW members are involved in mission by “doing something”, “giving something” and “being with” people in need. It is about building relationships of trust and genuine mutuality among people. The theme this year is **“Joy to the World” - The Significance of Service** with guest speaker, Kevin LaNave, director of the Center of Service Learning & Social Justice in St. Cloud.

Churches from across our district will be represented. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other United Methodist Women and to learn more about our mission emphasis.

Music will be provided by Gale Holmquist and Tari Waite; Suzi Smith will run the sound system. Our Buffalo UMW will provide a luncheon, muffins and snacks. All women from our church are welcome and encouraged to attend.

If you have never attended a district or conference event, you have missed a lot! It can be a truly inspirational event. Food items will be collected along with a love offering to be given to the local Buffalo Food Shelf.

Please call Esther (763-477-6221) on or before **Monday, April 25** if you plan to attend. Questions? Call Kris (763-682-4906) or Sara (763-682-4964).

Food Shelf Cleaning

Our church is assigned for cleaning the Buffalo Food Shelf on the weekend of April 23-24. If you could help with this, please contact Laurie at church or Dale Heckenlaible at 763-675-4020.

Did You Know?

Memories of Buffalo UMC

By Linda Bachman

Just think – our church family has been together since president Grover Cleveland was in office! That’s 125 years of memories, mostly sweet and good. Do you have some you can share? To get started, I’ll go first. Here’s one from the early 1960’s:

For those who came after 1987, you should know that the basement of our small, old brick church served both as the fellowship hall and our Sunday School rooms, when divided by heavy, ceiling-to-floor burgundy velvet curtains. With curtains pushed aside, it was where our Sunday potlucks took place.

It seems that in those years, there was more time to spend so there was no “eat and run.” After we enjoyed the potluck, the ladies got busy doing the dishes, and the men, well I don’t actually remember what they were doing. So what’s a kid to do to keep from being underfoot in the kitchen?

What absolute fun it was for me to start at the edge of the room and have other kids twirl me up inside one of those heavy curtains all the way across the basement! I remember how dark it was in there and how thickly wrapped I felt. Then it felt just as good to untwirl myself and pop out of the cocoon – surprise – I’m a giggling, dizzy butterfly.

I’m thinking you may have a fond memory, too. We’d love to read it here in the Joy Connection or as part of our history display in the month of June. It can be funny or serious, from the “depths of time” or the not-so-long-ago. Please turn it in to the office **by late May** so it can be included in our display!

125th Anniversary Happenings

A team met to explore ways to recognize our 125th Anniversary this year and came up with a list of possibilities.

Here are things that are already happening:

- **A Historical Display** – will be put together and up through the month of June with pictures, clippings, historical timeline etc. Linda Bachman and Iona Markley would love help from others to work on this!
- **Clothing Sale** – the Men’s Fellowship via Martyn Dibben, will work with Riti Sanderson to offer several clothing items for sale with our BUMC name and logo. All should be reasonably priced and are great “publicity” as we wear them around town. Watch for details soon.
- **Sell Commemorative Items** – Holly Bernatz will coordinate a sale of some items such as key chains, ornaments, notecards, mugs, etc.

Here are some things that could happen if someone want to take leadership, but we need to know **SOON**:

- **Sunday, June 12 Special Event** – one worship service at 8:15 followed by a brunch “open house.”
- **Contact Former Members and Pastors** to solicit memories, comments, stories etc. and to invite them to worship with us June 12 or any other Sunday in June.
- **Float in Buffalo Days Parade** (Sat. June 18) - Could put together a float for parade.
- **“Current/Future” Display** with fun stories, relationships, hopes for the future etc.



Order Easter Garden Flowers

We will accept donations towards our Easter Garden through April 10. Order forms are in the blue pew registration pads. We encourage cash donations in increments of \$10, but you may order a specific flower as well. All donations may be made in someone’s honor or memory.



Upcoming Worship Events

- April 2** **Saturday Awakenings (7 pm)** – *Bread for the Journey*; Soup supper at 6 pm
- April 3** **Holy Communion**; guest worship leaders bring us *The Vinegar Boy*, a musical sermon; One Great Hour Sharing Offering
- April 10** **Compassion Sunday**
- April 17** **Palm Sunday** – Children take part in palm procession and sing in worship
- April 21** **Holy Thursday (7:30 pm)**
- April 24** **Easter Sunday** (See schedule in article below.)

Easter Worship Schedule April 24

We are blessed by many worship choices on Easter Sunday. Consider coming for more than one, as each will be unique!

Sunrise Service – Come at 6:00 am for a true sunrise service with Holy Communion and a quiet time of reflection as we start this day of resurrection glory. All are welcome!

Joyful Praise - At 8:15 we will have an Easter celebration service with both contemporary songs and the traditional “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

Family Easter Service – This service at 9:20 (during the Sunday School hour) is perfect for families, with an engaging message by Pastor Melanie and a wide variety of music, including children-led songs.

Traditional Celebration - The 10:30 am service includes music by our chancel choir, organ and brass.

The Common Hope Mission team will serve “Resurrection Rolls” from 9:00-11:00. Your generous donations will help support their summer mission trip to Guatemala.

Help Create Our Easter Garden!

If you would like to design and/or help put together the garden on **Saturday, April 23**, your help would be hugely appreciated!! This is a really fun project which transforms the front of the sanctuary into our Resurrection Garden for Easter! Work could probably begin on Friday if that works better for you. Talk to Laurie Schroeder ASAP.

Ministry Team Reports

Compassion Sunday is April 10

Compassion Sunday is a great opportunity to help the world's poorest children and families. Over the past ten years of Compassion Sundays at BUMC, we have stepped up to sponsor 53 children! On April 10 you have the opportunity to share God's love through the programs of compassion.

Between now and Compassion Sunday please pray and listen to how God might be calling you to be a part of this mission. If you do not feel you can sponsor a child, there are other Compassion programs that can use your donations, such as the Leadership Development Program, Child Survival Program, and Complementary Interventions to fight malaria and AIDS, bring clean water, and distribute Bibles. Rita Varner-Otness and Linda Sherman will be available April 10 to answer your questions and Linda is eager to share pictures and stories of her recent trip to Colombia to visit her Compassion child!

"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed." Psalm 82:3

Bike Blessing on Sunday, May 15

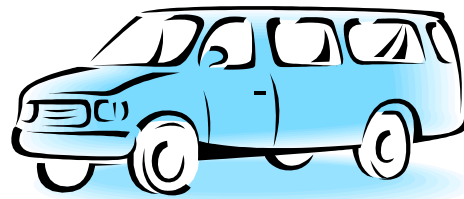
Join us for a fun and unique way to enjoy spring - a blessing of motorcycles, and also bicycles and/or helmets! Riders from motorcycle clubs all over the region have been invited to join us on May 15. Everyone is invited to the fund-raising breakfast served from 8:30-10:30 am by the senior high youth.

Pastor Jef, a biker himself, will lead a brief prayer service outside at 10 am and the congregation is encouraged to mingle among the motorcycles offering their own silent prayers of blessing and safety for the coming season. Kids and adults, please plan to participate!

Finance Team Update

Through your continued faithfulness, we continue to meet our monthly financial obligations. As of the end of February, our income has exceeded expenses by \$275. This includes our apportionments to the Minnesota Annual Conference. This past month our District Superintendent, Rev. Katie Schneider-Bryan, commended us for our continued faithfulness and shared with us that she likes to think about apportionments as "a portion meant" for others.

It is these apportionment gifts that allow us as United Methodists to do ministry together. The Africa University Fund is just one of the seven funds that have been approved by the General Conference. This fund continues to develop the first private university for young women and men from all over Africa, and offers post-secondary education in agriculture, natural resources, education, theology, health sciences and social services. Can you imagine what a difference this education is making in the lives of these students and the people they will touch over their lifetimes?



Should the Church Get a Van?

The subject of having a church van (12- or 15-passenger) to use for various ministries of the church keeps cropping up. The leadership team has approved formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate all the aspects of having a van – initial costs, insurance, licensure requirements, maintenance etc. Certainly this question cannot be answered until we have information gathered on costs and how it would be used. If you would consider serving on this committee, please let Pastor Jef or Laurie know.

Worship Attendance

	Early	Late	Total
Feb. 27	142	76	218
Mar. 5 (Sat)			82
Mar. 6	122	106	228
Mar. 13	125	85	210
Mar. 20	142	90	232

Children's Ministries & Sunday School

Robin's Sunday School Update

By now Easter is on everyone's minds. We have the smell of "Spring" in the air and Easter seems to be that "magic" time to tell all of us that Winter IS officially over! Now we are looking forward to warmer weather, no heavy coats, and spring color! However, Easter is much more than that. Jesus died for all our sins and this is the greatest gift of all, so be sure your family celebrates Easter by coming to church. Remember on **Easter Sunday, April 24** there is a special family Easter service during our SS hour (9:20 am) in place of classes!

Leading up to Easter, our Sunday School children will hear these stories: Praying in the Garden, Peter denies Jesus, The Crucifixion and Burial, Jesus is Alive & Thomas Believes. Our 6th graders' stories are: Washing of Feet, In the Garden, The Crucifixion & The Resurrection.

Palm **Sunday, April 17**, is a special day that our children will be singing. Parents need to be on the lookout for more details on this.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

Education Team Meeting April 27

Thanks to all who gathered for the March SS meeting to help prepare for changes in the year ahead. The new SS/Education Team will meet on **Wednesday, April 27 at 5:30 pm**. There are six great team members already, but we would love to have a few more of you join us. Come if you can!

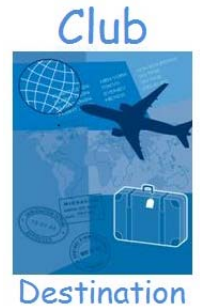
Teachers Needed for Lent Classes

Each Wednesday night, from 6:40 – 7:30, we are delighted to have more than 20 children participating in the children's Lenten classes. We are looking for teachers for the April 6 and 13 sessions as our regulars are gone. Contact Laurie or Melanie if you could help with any of the classes for K- 5th Graders.

Club Destination Kids Learn about God's Faithfulness

During April, children will learn about being faithful to God and others. Through the Bible stories about Elijah, we will explore these questions:

1. Can I always have faith in God?
2. Should I be faithful to tell others about God?
3. Does waiting on God make my faith stronger?
4. Will God quit on me if I want to quit on Him?
5. Will I still have ups and downs when I have faith in God?



Kids in grades K-5th are welcome to join us for this Wednesday after school program. Let Melanie know ahead of time that you are coming, but we would love to have more kids experience these great messages about God and the choices we make!

Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who make Club Destination fun for children and adults! You are doing a great job, passing on the gifts of faith, joy, and God's love to each and every child.

Could you be a crossing guard from 3:40 – 3:50 on a Wednesday afternoon in April? Let Melanie know. Could you help prepare and serve the snack from 3 – 4:15? Choose a Wednesday and let Melanie know.

Happy April Birthday to these Sunday School Students:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1 st | Drew Knutson (8) |
| 4 th | Taylor Ryan (11) |
| 6 th | Jacob Goth (4) |
| 13 th | Levi Pramann (12) |
| 20 th | Spencer Carter (6) & Lizzy Knutson (10) |
| 26 th | Nick Waite (6) |
| 27 th | Madelynn Swenson (11) |
| 30 th | Ryan & Tyler Dirks (12) |

Also to our volunteers: Glenda Vidmar & Lydea Aurentz

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, but church members may order them ahead for \$15. 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.



Attend Premiere of "The Brothers Grimm" in St. Cloud

Would you like to attend the world premiere of a new children's musical written by Marianne Kreitlow? *The Brothers Grimm* opens May 6 at The Paramount Theater, St. Cloud. Jim Norrix has reserved 25 seats for Buffalo UMC to attend the **Sunday, May 15, 2:00 pm** performance. We'll caravan from the church parking lot at 12:30. A sign-up sheet and information on ticket prices and other performance dates are posted on the bulletin board. Sign up **by April 10** if you wish to go with our group. Call **Jim with questions at 763 355 9124**.

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 Matters:

- For Shelly Garvey and her family as they grieve Pat's death.
- For Gloriane Kobbe and family as they grieve Richard's death.
- For Pastor Del Kurtz for dizziness to disappear and restored clarity of mind.
- For Cy Casperson, Karen Caspers-Butler's father who continues in cancer treatments for stage IV cancer.
- For Martha Grimme and Norm as she continues her cancer treatments.
- For Abby Harkman, daughter of Gail Babatz, recovering from March 21 surgery.

Joys and Celebrations:

- Celebration for our 5th graders who received communion training and a congregational blessing on March 5-6.
- Joy for the upcoming April 2 marriage of Steve Schroeder to Emily Zachman.

Thank You From:

- The family of Pat Garvey: "Thank you for all the wonderful cards, memorial gifts, and on-going support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."
- Gloriane Kobbe and family: "A grateful thank you to our Methodist Church family. At a time of uncertainty we felt your arms around us with love and support. A special thank you to church staff, Arlene Nelson, Jill & Gerry Starr, Kathy Varner and the dining room volunteers. You took an impossible situation to a beautiful possibility. Wow!"



Families & Faith

By Melanie Lichtenberg

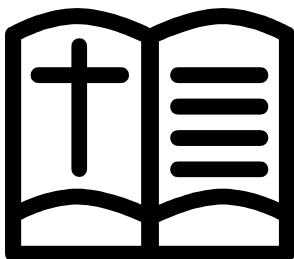
Family Ministries Pastor

The first day of Spring was March 20. I spotted a robin on March 21! The next day, I marveled at all of the brown grass and even spied a few green weeds. And, true to Minnesota's surprises, on March 23, I shoveled 6 inches of snow, while anticipating the arrival of the daffodils and last year's planted Easter lily.

Isn't it amazing how nature "appears" to be resting all winter and then bursts into life in the Spring? This reminds me of my Lenten journey, of taking things off my "to do" or "to go" lists. By slowing down, I am making time for prayer, even if it's 5 or 10 minutes to read the Bible. The Lenten journey feels like a breath of fresh air, filling my soul with new life.

Every day, God is breathing new life into us. So, how do we talk about God's gift of new life with our children, grandchildren, or the neighborhood kids? Let's start with the basics. The Bible guides us to find God working in our lives. Read and pray:

- "I am doing a new thing." (Isaiah 42:8-9, 48:6)
- "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)



April 1 – 9 Week:

Conversation starter: Read Psalm 33. What do you see or how do you experience the majesty and mysterious ways of God?

April 10 – 16 Week:

Conversation starter: Read Ephesians 4:17-5:2. How can you be imitators of God, in your actions of kindness, forgiveness, and being tenderhearted?

April 17 – 23 Week:

Conversation starter: Read John 13. Talk about the new commandment. What other new things did Jesus do, that seemed radical? Is God being radically new in you?

April 24- 30 Week:

Conversation starter: Read John 20. Let each person say which character they relate to, and why, in the Easter story.

My prayer for you this month is from Acts 4:33. I pray God's great grace is abundantly poured upon you, especially as you live and share the Easter story of God's love and joy with family and friends.

Contact Melanie Lichtenberg,
Family Ministries Pastor at
melaniebumc@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?

March was a very busy month full of wonderful activity and study in Preschool! The first week we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, so both classes wore crazy socks and pajamas, experienced green eggs, "became" the Cat in the Hat, heard many stories, and the 4/5s enjoyed "oobleck" and left foot, right foot painting. The second week we finished our marvelous Ocean Unit, which we had started in February, with fascinating fun and facts about octopus, orcas and starfish. The third week we had visits from the leprechauns as experienced by the tricks they played and the pot of gold left for us! And the last two weeks we studied community helpers culminating in field trips to the Post Office and Police Station (4/5s) and Library and Police Station (3s).

Throughout the month we "became" community helpers as we brought in lots and lots of cans, boxes and bags of food for the food shelf. The children sorted, classified, organized and counted the items as we set up our shelves full of goods, and learned a lot about sharing to help others. By the end of the month, we had brought in over 200 items! The children were so proud!! (and we thank our very generous families!) Also, Pastor Melanie came in for another visit this month and helped us learn more ways to love and give thanks for the beautiful world God created.

All of this activity leads us to a week off from school for Spring Break, April 1-10. When we return, we will prepare for Easter. In a child-appropriate manner, we will teach about the death and resurrection of Jesus, the joy of Easter morning, and of course we will be hoppin' with the Easter bunny too. We also will participate in the annual ECFE Family Fair at Discovery School on **Saturday, April 16 from 10:00-1:00**. Come see us there as well as enjoy a few hours of family fun, including demos, activities, food and pets. Registration for the 2011-12 school year can be done that Saturday, as well as any day here at church.

We are delighted to have two new students join our 4/5 class for the rest of this school year! Destiny Lowell and Sophie Rosh joined mid-month, and are fitting in beautifully. (And our "experienced" students love to teach them "how we do it at school"!) Both will go to Kindergarten in the fall, so we are lucky to have them for these last 3 months of preschool. Because of your generous scholarship dollars, we were able to accommodate the tuition needs of one of these families and help their daughter have her first group experience.

And on this topic, I wish to acknowledge and thank the family of Richard Kobbe who so generously named the Preschool Education Fund as a place for memorials given in his name and memory. How grateful we are to receive this blessing, and how wonderful a thought that in his passing from this life, Richard is enabling needy children to thrive in their new young lives. We already have three requests for next year, so we are extremely thankful for this memorial gift.

Happy Spring! Gloria Farwick, director



The children proudly show their food shelf donations!

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, April 12 at 1:30 pm at church

Program: Big Waters District Program Director Linda Kotchevar, District

Devotions: Judy Peterson **Hostesses:** Gretta Nelson & Ruth Kalway

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, April 16, 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, April 25, 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, April 26, 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, April 21, 5:00 pm



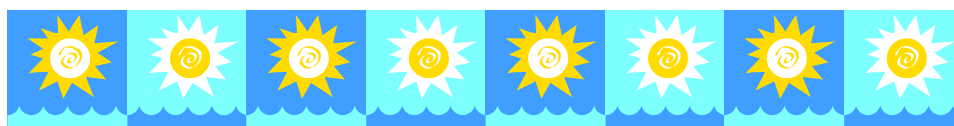
April 2011

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 8:00 pm AA	2 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Saturday Awakenings – Songs of Faith, Hope & Justice
3 <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> THEME: Now I See 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	4 No Preschool 7:30 pm AA	5 No Preschool 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 7:30 pm Preschool Advisory Board	6 No Preschool 3:30 pm Club Destination 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner Soup by UMM 6:40 pm Lenten Study & Children's Class 7:30 pm Chancel Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	7 No Preschool	8 No Preschool 2:30 pm Ozark Jubilee Concert 8:00 pm AA	9 2:30 pm Ozark Jubilee Concert 5:00 pm Concert Dinner	
10 THEME: So That You May Believe <i>Compassion Sunday</i> 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	11 6:30 pm BeFrienders 7:30 pm AA	12 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Leadership Team Meeting	13 3:30 pm Club Destination 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner scalloped potatoes w/ham by UEC 6:40 pm Lenten Study & Children's Class 7:30 pm Chancel Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	14	15 8:00 pm AA	16 7:30 pm United Methodist Men Meeting 9:00 am Membership Class	
17 <i>Palm Sunday</i> THEME: Our King Is Coming...Again 5:00 pm - ReForm 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	18 11:30 am MS Support Group 7:30 pm AA	19 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Staff Parish Meeting	20 3:30 pm Club Destination 6:30 pm Chancel Chimes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	21 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 5:00 pm Diners Out at Perkins 7:30 pm Holy Thursday Worship	22 <i>Good Friday</i> 8:00 pm AA	23 Easter Garden Set Up	
24 <i>Easter Sunday</i> THEME: I Have Seen The Lord 9-11 am Common Hope serves Resurrection rolls 6:00 pm Disciple Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	25 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry at Arlene Nelson's 7:30 Pm AA	26 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm Grief Support 7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting	27 3:30 pm Club Destination 5:30 pm SS/Education Team meeting 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth – Fun Night 6:00 pm Confirmation – Fun Night 6:30 pm Chancel Chimes 7:30 pm Praise Team	28	29 3:00 pm UMW District Meeting 8:00 pm AA	30 7:00 am UMW District Meeting 8:00 am Wesley Meal	

Schedules

Coffee Server Schedule	
April 3	Unidos en Cristo
April 10	
April 17	
April 24	Common Hope Breakfast
Usher Schedule	
8:15 am	
April 3	Docherty Family
April 10	Barb Odenthal & Marjorie Zacharda
April 17	Dennis & Tracy Daleiden
April 24	Bruce Schmidt & Jan Heyerdahl
9:20 am	
April 24	
10:30 am	
April 3	Ivan Erickson & Bill Augustin
April 10	Lloyd Link & Steve Lichtenberg
April 17	Pat McAlister & Linda Bostic
April 24	Del & Joyce Dietz

Looking Ahead... Items to Put on Your Calendar	
May 7	Saturday Awakenings - <i>Carpenters Tools International</i>
May 8	Carpenter's Tools at 8:15 Worship
May 15	Bike & Helmet Blessing
May 22	Youth Sunday & Recognition Sunday
May 29	Memorial Sunday
June 11	Saturday Awakenings - <i>Gospel Music with Aaron Burke</i>
June 19	Peace with Justice Sun.
July 9	Saturday Awakenings - <i>The Labyrinth</i>



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
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Buffalo, MN 55313
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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

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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