



The Joy Connection

August 2011

A monthly publication of Buffalo United Methodist Church

Worship Events

August 7

Parable of the Talents

Luke 19:1-27

Holy Communion

August 14

Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

**VBS & Common Hope
Sunday**

August 20

Saturday Awakenings

John Hagen & The JARS

August 21

Mercy and Grace

Luke 10:25-37

Unidos en Cristo Sunday

August 28

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Sunday Schedule

8:15 am

Joyful Praise Worship

9:15 am

Fellowship

9:45 am

Traditional Celebration

We Are the Church Together...

I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together.

Remember that song? Or, perhaps you are more familiar with the childhood ditty complete with hand motions: *Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open it up and see all the people.*

These words are more than feel-good lyrics or simple children's prose. They are bold faith statements set to music and verse. They give voice to who we are and what we value. The Apostle Paul contended that we are the church – the body of Christ – when we gather together. Alone, we are *believers* who have knowledge of God, but our relationship with God is more casual than intimate. Gathering as the body of Christ we become *disciples* joining our energies to praise God, supporting and encouraging each other to draw ever closer in our relationship with God and combining our resources and talents to minister to the world around us (social holiness).

I have been writing these past couple of months about the synergy between worship and personal holiness with social holiness thrown in for good measure. My thoughts are in response to having recently read John van de Laar's book, *The Hour that Changes Everything*. Often, we view these three components of faith to be spiritual disciplines, though we know they are much more than a practice. They are really all-encompassing mosaics of who we are and how we have chosen to live in the kingdom of God in community with each other.

Jesus is recorded in John 4.21 as saying that "neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship God, but in spirit and truth." Jesus is telling us that worship is not dependent on a place or an external formula. True worship, then, is an inner experience, an authentic experience in the heart with God. Yes, worship has outward manifestations – and isn't it wonderful to witness the outward signs of an inward and spiritual love affair with God? – but true worship and genuine personal holiness must always begin in our hearts.

A life in Christ evidenced by the fact that all of life is marked by worship; all of life is a testament of personal and social holiness. The Apostle Paul writes in the twelfth chapter of Romans that we should present ourselves as holy and living sacrifices to God...this is truly the way to worship God...this is how we will grow in God as we come to more fully know what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I am the church. You are the church. We are the church 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	320-224-4594
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*

Saturday Awakenings Celebrations



Saturday, August 20

Faith Journey with The JARS

Join us on August 20 at 7:00 pm for “Faith Journey” with John Hagen and his music group “The JARS,” who will perform a variety of gospel music, old and new. The night kicks off with a 1950’s bluegrass gospel song by The Happy Goodmans – ‘Wouldn’t Take Nothing for My Journey Now.’ The journey then weaves its way to the 2006 Bob Dylan release ‘When the Deal Goes Down.’ You’ll also have a chance to sing along with the JARS on older favorites such as ‘I’ll Fly Away.’ Following the concert, enjoy a cup of coffee and dessert in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, September 24

The Wagon Wheelers in Concert

The local music group *The Wagon Wheelers* will be in concert here at BUMC on **Saturday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m.** Invite your friends and neighbors to hear this popular band sing favorite gospel and country tunes. A freewill offering will be received with all proceeds going to support missions through the UMW.

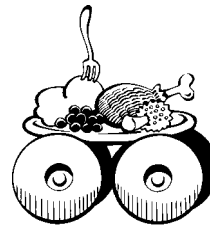
Prior to the concert from 4:30-7 pm, an ice cream social with sloppy joes, hotdogs, pie and ice cream will be served. Come for one or both! Requests for musical numbers will begin at 5:30 and the concert at 7:00.

September Bible Study Invitation

You are invited to a 6-week Sunday morning Bible Study with Pastor Melanie starting in September to study the Lord’s Prayer. Contact the church office if you are interested so the study book can be ordered for you. For something new, our group will also learn the Lord’s Prayer in Sign Language, in the hopes of sharing it during a worship service sometime.

♥ *Ministry & Missions*

Help Deliver Meals on Wheels



August is our month to deliver Meals on Wheels to people in the community who rely on having a hot noon meal delivered to their door. It only takes about 45 minutes to an hour of your time to help homebound people. Meals are picked up between 11:30-11:45 at the back door of Lake Ridge. There are three routes, so ***we need three drivers each day!*** If you aren’t familiar with Buffalo, we can team you up with someone who does. Each route comes with complete information with name and address. Sign up now on the board in the entryway to help!

BeFriender and Care Ministry Volunteers Needed

One of the ways we live out our faith is by encouraging and supporting others, especially in times of trial. We have active BeFrienders and Care Ministries here in our congregation, but we could use more volunteers. Men are especially needed!! We have ongoing needs for both BeFrienders, in longer-term assignments, and also people for short-term Caring Ministries to connect with people going through difficult situations or who are lonely.

We will schedule the trainings this Fall based on the responses we get. Please indicate your interest on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or by calling the office or one of the following BeFriender Coordinators - Sara Gaeth 682-4964; Erva Hance 682-4711; or Gretta Nelson 682-4137.

The coordinators will answer specific questions about the ministries and training sessions, but the basic BeFrienders foundation principles are:

- God is present
- Caring, not curing
- Nonjudgmental presence
- Active listening

Donate Supplies for UMCOR Kits

Because there has been so great a need for relief supplies due to the many tornadoes and floods this year, the United Methodist Women will collect items for **school, sewing and health kits** to send to the UMCOR Depot in Louisiana. You are invited to bring items for those kits and place them in the box in the entryway. (See the lists that follow.)

If you would like to help the UMW assemble the UMCOR Kits, please join us on **Tuesday, August 9 at 1:30 pm** in the church fellowship hall. There will be great conversation and snacks to follow the assembly.

Questions? Call Sara Gaeth or Kris Dirks.

School kit: blunt scissors, hand pencil sharpener, 30 centimeter ruler, 2 ½ inch eraser, 24 ct box of crayons; fabric for 14"x16" heavy duty cloth bag. (We need persons to sew these bags.)

Sewing Kit: 3 continuous yards of fabric cotton/cotton blend fabric, fabric scissors, 1 pkg needles, 1 spool thread, 5-8 buttons

Layette Kit: 6 cloth diapers, 2 shirts or onsies, wash cloths, sleepers, diaper pins, sweater (open from front), 2 receiving blankets (30"x30-32")

Health Kit: 1 hand towel (15"x25" to 17"x27") washcloth, comb, nail clipper, toothbrush

Birthing Kit: small bar soap, pair latex, surgical or thin rubber gloves, single edge razor blade, 2 receiving blankets

Cleaning bucket: (in great demand!) 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid, liquid laundry detergent (25oz) dish soap (16-28 oz) a can air freshener, 1 insect repellent spray, 1 scrub brush, 7 sponges, 5 scouring pads, 50 clothes pins, clothes line (2 (50-ft) or 1 (100 ft) cotton or plastic, 24-roll heavy duty trash bags, 5 dust masks, 2 pair disposable waterproof gloves

UMW Bake Sales

A variety of baked goods and snacks will be available for a free-will donation **on Sunday,**

July 31 and again on Sunday, August 14.

Members and friends are invited to bring items and place on the table provided as you come to worship. Proceeds go to the mission projects of UMW.

Love INC Collecting School Supplies

August is here and soon school bells will be ringing. Help our local kids to have the school supplies they need. Please refer to the list of needed items on the box in the entryway, and fill up the provided boxes! Love INC—Big Woods needs items by Sunday, August 21 so they can assemble and distribute them at the Food Shelf in August.

"If you then know how to give good gifts to children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give good gifts to you." Matt 7:11

Please check out the Connection Points page at the end of the newsletter for information on ministries which meet regularly!

Worship

Upcoming Worship Events

Aug. 7 Holy Communion

Aug. 14 VBS & Common Hope Sunday

Aug. 21 Unidos en Cristo Sunday

*Summer worship schedule runs through
Labor Day Sunday, September 4!*

8:15 Joyful Praise Worship

9:45 Celebration Worship

Fellowship from 9:15 – 9:45

On Sunday, September 11 we return to our regular schedule with late services at 10:30 am.

Worship Attendance

	Early	Late	Total
June 26	122	64	186
July 3	102	66	168
July 9 (Sat)			72
July 10	102	64	166
July 17	115	106	221
July 24	109	54	163

Did You Know?

Community Remembering 9/11

The tenth anniversary of 9/11 happens this year. As a way of remember the victims lost, honoring our public servants, and coming together as a community, the Buffalo Ministerial Association is hosting an ecumenical public event at the Buffalo High School Performing Arts Center on **Sunday, September 11, at 4:00 pm.** All are welcome to attend. Mark your calendars now.

Anniversary Mug Update

If you purchased one of the anniversary mugs and had problems with the lettering coming off, please bring them back to church for a refund! We had ordered a new shipment to correct the problem, and the company then ran into delays in filling the order, so we decided to cancel the order and get our money back. If anyone feels strongly about having keepsake mugs, please let staff know, otherwise we will not re-order.

Clothing & More Still For Sale

BUMC t-shirts, sweatshirts and jackets are still for sale though not out on tables. Check in the office if you wish to purchase items. The keepsake cross ornaments and dogtags are also still for sale.

SpiritSpeak Autism Symposium

Did you know that BUMC is the site of a symposium on autism on **Saturday, August 20?** The event is sponsored by Life Resources Counseling Services in Buffalo, and Deborah Company Midwest. Lucy Riethmiller, who is a pastoral counselor with Life Resources is coordinating the event.

All are welcome to attend this free event which will help parents, professionals and others learn more about autism, as well as explore what care and treatment is available for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. This workshop will also include a spiritual component for Christian families dealing with autism.

The event runs from 9 am to 5 pm with a keynote speaker in the morning and afternoon, as well as workshops. Call 763-442-2438 for more information.

Imagine No Malaria Campaign

Did you know that every 30 seconds, a child in Africa dies of malaria? The disease claims more than 1 million lives each year, with more than 90% of the deaths occurring in sub-Saharan Africa. The sad thing is that malaria is 100% preventable and treatable if the resources are available.

The United Methodist Church has kicked off a \$75 million effort, working in partnership with global health leaders including the United Nations Foundation, the Global Fund, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Every congregation in the Minnesota Annual Conference is being asked by Bishop Sally Dyck to participate over the next three years. Our Minnesota Conference goal is \$1.8 million.

You will be hearing more about this soon, and plans are already underway for VBS to start the fundraising. The Sunday School team will promote it with our children's classes, and an October all-church event is being planned. If you'd like to help our church with ideas of how to raise funds, please let a staff person or leadership team member know!

Fun and Fellowship

Visit Hamline Dining Hall at the Fair!

The congregation of Hamline UMC invites you to visit their dining hall for breakfast, lunch or dinner when you go to the Minnesota State Fair.

Bring your church bulletin and receive \$3 off the dinner special. One "special" per bulletin please.

Minnesota Garlic Festival

If you're looking for some unique entertainment this month, consider heading to the Minnesota Garlic Festival on **Saturday, August 13 at the McLeod County Fairgrounds in Hutchinson.** Events run from 10 am to 6 pm with a modest entry fee of \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. This is hosted by the Crow River Sustainable Farming Association, with primary planners being Jerry Ford and Marianne Kreitlow. Features are local foods, chef cooking demonstrations, music, artisans and information on sustainable farming. Check out the website for more information: MNgarlicfest.com

Children's Ministries & Sunday School

Sunday School Update

By Mary Ann Barfknecht, SS co-chair

We are busy preparing our Sunday School rooms, student lists and class material even though it seems like summer just got here!

We have a great group of volunteers for this year, but there are some openings for classroom helpers. If you would be interested in joining us we would love to have you! Please just let us know. Have a great rest of the summer. We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

New Registration Process

Have you turned in your Sunday School registration yet? You should have received the forms in the mail already, but pick one up on Sunday or call the office if you can't find them. PLEASE help us out by returning the form as soon as possible so we can get class rosters ready and order materials!

Parent Help Opportunities

There are three ways we would like SS parents to consider helping over the next months. Please let us know if you can help with any of the following:

- **Sunday Morning Floaters** - We are looking for some parents to commit to being a once-a-month **Floater** starting in September. This entails hanging out with Glenda in the Resource Room on Sunday morning to help with the tasks of recording attendance, counting offering, straightening the resource room and providing a helping hand as needed. Ideally, if you could take "every second Sunday" for example, we could rotate on a regular schedule. You could always switch with someone if your schedule changes. Please let the church office or Glenda (763-498-8312) know if you could help.
- **Classroom Helpers** – Teachers always appreciate extra hands in the classroom, so consider being a helpers in your child's SS class.

Family Carnival Cancelled

Due to a number of factors, including a lack of volunteer availability, we will **not** be holding the family carnival this year. Perhaps we can bring it back next year if there is enough interest. Thanks anyway to all of you who had volunteered to help.

Sunday School Teacher Training



All Sunday School teachers need to attend a training session, and to accommodate busy schedules, there will be two opportunities:

Wednesday, August 31, 6 pm

Thursday, September 8, 6 pm

Come and share a light meal and fellowship before we begin our Sunday School Teacher orientation for the upcoming year. RSVP to the church office by **August 28** so we can have enough food and supplies. Thank you for what you do for our children's ministry.

We'll have some fresh new resources and a NEW safety video!

Fun in the Sun = F.I.T.S

Children 3 years old through 4th grade are invited to our final summer event on **August 3** from 9:30 – 11:30 am.



Our theme is "God loves animals." Kids will rotate through 10 stations, seeing animals, skits, music, participate in a **service project** for Crossroads Animal Shelter. High-energy kids will love the 30-minute jump-a-roma with Jill Mischke, from Kid-Fit MN!

Last month, we had 32 children meet and greet new and old friends. How many kids can **YOU INVITE** to see the animals, help the animal shelter, and learn about God? Remember that it's **FREE!** Parents will need to register and sign-out their child at each event. An RSVP is greatly appreciated! Call 763-682-3538 or email Melanie, melaniebumc@bwig.net.

Panda Mania Fun August 7-11

It's almost here! Sign up now to join us for 5 evenings of fun Sunday through Thursday, August 7-11! Kids will discover that God is WILD about them! They will experience that God listens to and watches over them. God loves them—no matter what!

Remember, family meals are served at 5:30 pm as an optional activity, and the programming runs from 6:00-8:15 pm. Children ages 5 through entering 6th grade are welcome to attend. Helpers are always welcome, too!



Volunteer to Keep Club Destination Going!

The after-school program, Club Destination, has been “traveling” around the world for three years. Each week, children met new friends, and learned how to show Christian traits in their daily lives. The skits, music, crafts, and games filled two hours of fun, for everyone. We are grateful for your energy, passion for the Lord, and faith-filled experiences in creating this outreach ministry to children!

But, life is full of changes, as we all know and experience. Schedules for some Club Destination volunteers and staff have changed. After assessing the after-school program’s goals as correlating to our church’s vision, Pastor Melanie will move out of Club Destination management to expand her time in other family ministries - strengthening family outreach events, creating family-friendly worship services, creating resources and opportunities for faith in the home, developing summer outreach programs, and supporting the Sunday School ministries.

So, in order for Club Destination to start back up again in September, **new volunteers are needed!** Pray and see if the Holy Spirit is leading you to help in one of these areas in September:

1. Shop for snacks. You will be reimbursed.
2. Set up the kitchen and help serve snacks.
3. Adults to walk with children from Northwinds Elementary School back to church.
4. Crossing Guards, from 3:40 – 3:50 PM.
5. Tech person to help with songs and story time.
6. Adults (5) needed weekly to supervise a group of 5 children while children are learning.
7. Adult “characters” who like to act and tell stories.
8. Plan indoor and/or outdoor 30 minute-activities.

We are still currently taking registrations in the hopes that we can run this program again. Tickets can be reserved for children, Kindergarten – Grade 5. The cost is just \$30 per child for the year with a family max of \$75. Scholarships are available, just talk with Pastor Melanie.

We need to have all our volunteer positions filled by **August 28** in order to move forward, so talk to Pastor Melanie ASAP if you can help.



What's Up in Preschool?

We are busy gearing up for the start of our fourth year of preschool here at BUMC! Orientation for students and parents takes place on the evening of August 17, with the beginning days of preschool on September 8 and 9. Right now our three-day morning class for 4/5 year olds is full with 18, and our two-day morning class for 3 year olds has 8 enrolled, with room for more. (We have the option of opening a Tuesday/Thursday afternoon multi-age class if need dictates.)

We are excited to have our same wonderful staff returning: Jody Brings, 4/5 lead teacher; Gloria Farwick, 3 year lead teacher /PS director, and Christine Hartke, assistant for both classes.

By August 17 our rooms will be cleaned, decorated, and organized for another great year of growing and learning. Feel free to stop in and see our wonderful facility!

Ministry Team Reports

Finance Team Update

By Peter Bedker, finance chair

Through your continued faithfulness, we continue to meet our monthly financial obligations. Through July, our income has exceeded expenses by approximately \$1,000. So in addition to paying our bills, through your generous gifts we have been able to provide our apportionment gifts to the Minnesota Annual Conference on time.

It is these apportionment gifts that allow us as United Methodists to do ministry together. For example, a portion of our Conference askings goes to support the camping ministries. Do you know someone who went to camp this summer? You might ask them about their experience. Emily, my youngest daughter has just returned from ten days at Star Lake. This was her eighth year of participation in the UMC camping ministries. She hopes to follow her sister as a counselor at Star Lake, next summer.

Apportionments provide far-reaching faith formation opportunities for all ages, mission support, congregational support and resources, clergy pensions, and more. So remember as you give your offerings, you are giving to God, and at the same time helping God's people.

Property Team Update

The property team has been busy this summer working on improvements and maintenance of the landscape around church. Special thanks to Peggy Hill for coordinating the weeding and sodding efforts, and to all the volunteers who came and helped out, in spite of the heat!! Be sure to let them know you appreciate it, and you can still volunteer if you're able.

Russ Froemming continued installation of replacement windows this month so we'll be ready for preschool and Sunday School classes.

We're still having some adjustments with our new coffeemaker. Make sure you push the toggle switch firmly when turning it on or off as it doesn't seem to respond to a "light touch." Don't be shy - ask for help if you need it.

Worship Design Team

You may or may not be aware that last spring we formed a worship design team to help plan special worship services and to enhance our regular worship services. This team of lay people and staff work together to develop experiential, visual, and music worship components based on scripture and worship themes.

We would also like to hear from YOU! What makes worship effective and meaningful for you? How are you best nourished and challenged by a worship service? What components of worship would you like to see more of, or less of?

This coming Fall we plan to try some alternative worship styles about once a month at the 10:30 service. You might see different music styles, family-oriented worship, or some of our Saturday Awakenings services brought to the 10:30 worship occasionally. Let us know what is effective - we want to hear from you!

Please contact any member of the worship design team with your thoughts – Craig Lilja, Tracy Daleiden, Josh Roeser, Rita Otness, Jana Knutson, Laurie Schroeder and Pastor Jef.

Thank You All for Ministry!

We quit doing our "thank you" column in the newsletter a while ago. Not because we aren't appreciative of all the ministry that happens, but because we couldn't possibly include everyone on the list and often missed people. Please know that your ministry is valued and appreciated.

Thank you to all who continue to do God's work as faithful servants. We pray that you may find joy as you serve God and bless others!

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 Samantha Wanner who is recovering from a serious bacterial infection following hospitalization.
- For Erva Hance's brother, Lee Snyder as they prepare for test results and a treatment plan for his prostate cancer.
- For those of all ages within our congregation and beyond, who are suffering from mental health illnesses.
- For Del Smith as he recovers from a removal of a kidney stone.
- For Mike Libby, recovering from a thyroidectomy, and thanksgiving that there was no cancer.
- For the Docherty's, Otness' and O'Flanagan's as they leave today for United Methodist Family Camp.
- For Jake Waite, who heads to treehouse camp at Northern Pines August 7-12.
- For our senior high youth who are volunteering at Camp Friendship this month.
- For Laura Johnson and family as she continues to deal with complications and severe pain following a back injury.
- Thanksgiving for more rapid than expected recovery from hip surgery for Brian Gilson's mother, Marcia.
- For Madisyn Chesnutt's father, hospitalized with severe pancreatitis and other health issues.
- For Dave Pramann Jr. and full recovery from a detached retina.



Families & Faith

By Melanie Lichtenberg

Family Ministries Pastor

Last month, I mentioned the “Four Keys for Nurturing Faith,” as described by Marilyn Sharpe. The first key was “having caring conversations.”

The second key is “**creating time for family devotions.**” I’ve always stressed out as I thought this meant a formal worship service in our home. By reading Marilyn’s book, I breathed a sigh of relief, thinking this is do-able. But, I am having a hard time getting started. Well, the Lord has ways of letting me know that I need to stop procrastinating. Read Matthew 11:25:

“At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants.”
(New Revised Standard)

When I need to learn a lesson, God often gets my attention through a child. On a Sunday morning drive to church for worship, our son Luke asked me a question. I turned the radio off and listened. He wanted to know why there was a seed on the cross tie tack he was wearing. I told him it was a mustard seed.

In Matthew 17:20 (NRS), Jesus gives us the invitation and the promise, “For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Wow! God can move mountains? Holding back a giggle, I explained the comparison. When we trust God and ask for His Plan to be done, God CAN and DOES work miracles, often impacting our lives as if a mountain was moved.

Can you imagine the surprise on our faces when a dump truck was parked and a backhoe was being unloaded in front of our home on Monday morning, ready to move some dirt? Time to “thank God” (simple devotional prayer) for making all things possible! I love God’s humor.

God bless your time for devotions!

August 1 – 6th Week:

Read Psalm 42:8 and Philippians 4:4-7.

Faith Action: Pray to God, at a meal and bedtime.

Conversation starter: Do you like to pray from a book, from the heart (which is simply having a talk with Jesus), or using a Bible verse as your prayer?

August 7– 13th Week:

Read Matthew 25:35-45 and Ephesians 1:2-3.

Faith Action: Where do you see God? Come to Vacation Bible School to learn new ways to discover “God Sightings!”

Conversation starter: Is it easy to see God working in our lives, this world? Where are the surprising places you found God and His love?

August 14– 20th Week:

Read Psalm 100 and Psalm 135:1-3.

Faith Action: Sing “Jesus Loves Me.”

Conversation starter: What instruments can you make to keep the beat to a song that praises God? Do you sing and dance, while worshipping the Lord? Has the Lord given you a song or a melody to share?

August 21– 31st Week:

Read Matthew 13:44-47 and Luke 12:34.

Faith Action: Go on a “treasure hunt.” Find items that show God working in your lives.

Conversation starter: How is dirty laundry a blessing? We are blessed to have clothes and modern conveniences for washing and drying.

Contact Melanie Lichtenberg, Family Ministries Pastor
at melaniebumc@bwig.net or call (763) 682-3538
with ideas for parent get-togethers,
or family worship and service experiences.

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, August 9 at 1:30 pm at church

Program: Assembling School Supply Kits

Hostesses: Erva Hance and Lorraine Kurtz **Devotions:** Joanne Johnson

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: Summer hiatus – resumes in September

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: Summer hiatus – resumes in September

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, August 23, 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, August 18, 5:00 pm

YOUTH

NEWS TO HELP PUT YOU IN YOUTH MINISTRY

AUG 2011

SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD ABOVE ALL ELSE, AND LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED. MATTHEW 6:33

My mother-in-law recently made a seek-and-find kind of game that involves about 20 little trinkets hidden in a plastic pop bottle filled with birdseed. The object of the game is to shake and twist the bottle until one of the objects (nail, penny, push pin, etc.) comes into view.

One of the objects in the bottle was a cross. I shook and shook and looked and looked, but I couldn't find it. Then, it occurred to me that the bottle was a metaphor for life as a Christian. Life in our busy times seems to be a constant shake up. Certain things rise to the surface and grab our attention. They seem to be what the game of life is all about, but really they are a distraction from the real deal.

What are the things that rise to the top of our shaken up lives that distract focus from the cross? What can we do to dump out the bottle so we can re-prioritize our lives to spend more of our time, talents and treasures on God?

Parent Connection

Your decisions and actions demonstrate where faith is on your list of priorities. What would your kids say tops the list?

Looking Ahead to the Fall

As we look towards September and beyond, there are plenty of opportunities for caring adults to be involved in the youth ministry program. The following volunteer opportunities are available

- Short term (4-6 weeks) Sunday School Teachers
- Wednesday Night Small Group Leaders
- Occasional Drivers and Chaperones
- Game Gurus
- Prayer Warriors

Youth ministry is the result of the whole church working together and we can't do it without you! Talk to Jana if you can help in any of these areas of ministry. Training and resources provided.

Meals on Wheels

August is our church's month for Meals on Wheels. This is a great outreach ministry for youth. Grab your favorite youth or two and sign up for a shift. It only takes one hour, but the time with youth, doing ministry in the community is priceless.

THE SENIOR HIGH YOUTH ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF CARING ADULT VOLUNTEERS.
CONTACT MIKE AND JANA IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP. JANABUMC@BWIG.NET
OR AT HOME (320)286-2074 (LOCAL-METRO FOR MOST)

August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:30 pm AA	2 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Property Meeting 7:30 pm Preschool Board Meeting	3 9:30 – 11:30 am FITS Children Program 6:00 pm Sunday School Team Meeting	4 2:30 – 3:30 pm <i>Saturday Awakenings Outreach Event</i> at Woodmere Apartments	5 8:00 pm AA	6
7 <i>Holy Communion</i> 5:30–8:15 pm Vacation Bible School Starts 7:30 pm AA	8 5:30–8:15 pm Vacation Bible School 6:30 BeFrienders 7:30 pm AA	9 10:30 am AA 1:30 pm UMW 5:30–8:15 pm Vacation Bible School 7:00 pm Leadership Meeting	10 5:30–8:15 pm Vacation Bible School	11 5:30–8:15 pm Vacation Bible School	12 8:00 pm AA	13
14 <i>Mission Sunday – VBS & Common Hope</i> 9:15 am UMW Bake Sale 7:30 pm AA	15 11:30 am MS Society Support 7:30 pm AA	16 10:30 am AA	17 6-9 pm Preschool Orientation	18 5:00 pm Diners Out at Perkins	19 8:00 pm AA	20 8-6 Autism Seminar 7:00 pm <i>Saturday Awakenings – The JARS</i>
21 <i>Unidos En Cristo Sunday</i> 7:30 pm AA	22 7:30 pm AA	23 10:30 am AA 6:30 Grief Support	24 6-8 pm Youth Book Club	25 7:00 pm Mom’s Book Group	26 8:00 pm AA	27
28 7:30 pm AA	29 7:30 pm AA	30 10:30 am AA 7:00 pm Finance Meeting	31 6:00 pm S.S. Teacher Training Workshop	Sunday Schedule 8:15 am Joyful Praise Worship 9:20 am Fellowship 9:45 am Traditional Celebration Worship		

Schedules

Coffee Server Schedule	
August 7	Unidos en Cristo
August 14	United Methodist Women
August 21	Barb Odenthal
August 28	
Usher Schedule	
8:15 am	
August 7	Bruce & Barb Schmidt
August 14	Dave & Pam Sieberg
August 21	Mike & Barb Sande
August 28	Mike & Barb Sande
9:45 am	
August 7	Ivan Erickson & Bill Augustin
August 14	Steve Lichtenberg & Lloyd Link
August 21	Jim & Donna Lanie
August 28	Del & Joyce Dietz

Looking Ahead... Items to Put on Your Calendar	
September 7	Faith Partner Orientation
September 8	SS Teacher Training
September 11	Open House Sunday
September 11	Remembering 911 Community Event
September 14	Confirmation Student & Parent Orientation
September 18	Confirmation Sunday
September 24	Wagon Wheelers Concert
September 25	7 th Grade Confirmation Faith Stepping Stone
October 15	<i>Saturday Awakenings</i> - No More Malaria Event

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

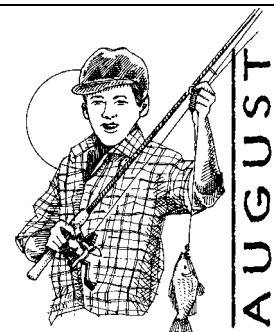
Please call the church office at 763-682-3538 with prayer concerns or to be part of the prayer circle.

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, and 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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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

Staff	
Pastor	Rev. Jef Olson
Lay Associate Minister	Laurie Schroeder
Youth Leaders	Jana & Mike Knutson
Family Ministries	Melanie Lichtenberg
Administrative Asst.	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

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