BUMC Weekly CONNECTION

October 21 2026

Sunday Service

Faithful For What Comes Next
Pastor Amy Strom
October 25, 2026
9am Service

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:1-9,
Isaiah 43:18-19,
Phil 1:3-6

A Special Treat from Two Former Pastors!

As we continue to reflect on our 140/40 Anniversary, we have a special treat to share with our BUMC family! We were blessed to receive letters of congratulations from two of our former pastors, Pastor John Philippi and Pastor Ruth Ann Ramstad. Both shared heartfelt wishes as we celebrated 140 years of faith and fellowship in our community. Pastor John's letter is shared below, and Pastor Ruth Ann's letter is attached to this newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading their messages and reflecting on the many blessings and memories we share as a church family!

Dear friends,

Congratulations on 140 years of ministry! Sorry I cannot be present to celebrate with you. For those of you who do not know me, I was pastor for 8 years during the planning and construction of the building, having served from 1982 to 1990. Unfortunately I will be 93 on October 10th and have just recently moved into a semi-assisted living facility, although I remain very alert and active.

I have many fond memories of my time in Buffalo. To recall a few: Christmas tree sales, Braschler Music concerts, and the Reverend Joyce Plum pulpit exchange from England. I also remember our first wedding and funeral services in the new church building were without water and sewer because they had not been connected yet. A highlight was following completion of the building, we added an addition two years later.

My prayers are with you as you continue to serve the Buffalo community. May God continue to bless the Buffalo United Methodist Church and support the congregation and staff.

Reverend John Phillippe, retired
254 Ascot Lane, Niskayuna, NY 12309
518-526-2604
Revjohnoct63@gmail.com

Oct 24	9:00 am	Cluster Conference
Oct 25	9:00 am	Sunday Service
	10:00 am	Fellowship
	10:15 am	Annual Church Celebration
Oct 26	1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Meeting
Oct 28	4:00 pm	Theo of Golden book club

Important News

On Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., we'll be hosting our Cluster Conference here at BUMC.

This is an opportunity for our church, and other churches in our district, to come together and take care of some important annual conference business. That business will include matters that require district approval on things like pastoral compensation, housing allowance, membership reports, and our leadership slate.

All voting members of Buffalo United Methodist Church are welcome and encouraged to attend. Your presence and participation are an important part of the life of our church.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. We'd love to see you there!

Annual Church Celebration
Sunday, October 25

Just a reminder that our Annual Church Celebration will be held Sunday, October 25, immediately following worship.

After the service, grab a cup of coffee, a snack, and a seat in the Fellowship Hall as we gather to talk about the life and ministry of our church. We'll discuss decisions made at the Cluster Conference on our membership rolls, leadership, the church budget, pastoral compensation, and housing allowance.

Everyone is encouraged to attend! This is a great opportunity to ask questions, hear about our current financial situation, and plan for the future.

Mark your calendar, plan to stay after worship, and join us for this important time together as a church family. We hope to see you there!

WRAPPED IN Love

Help children in foster care, children who have been adopted, and their family members start the school year with new socks and underwear.

- Please donate **NEW** socks and underwear only.
- All sizes are needed, from preschool through adult.
- Place donations in the box in the coat room.
- Prefer someone else to shop? **Rita Varner Otness** is happy to help.
- Give monetary donations directly to **Rita** or to **Marcia** in the office.

breeze

Sign up for Breeze, our church's online connection hub. Click here to get started and find our church calendar, upcoming events, and contact information for people in our congregation.

Prayer Ministry: Our Church in God's Hands

· **Pray for generous and faithful giving.** Pray that God would cultivate generous hearts. Pray we can close the gap of $17,900 in our giving in this fourth quarter.

· **Pray for willing hearts to serve.** A few from Finance Team and Staff Parish Relations Committee will reach their term limits this year. Pray that God would raise up new leaders willing to step forward, share their gifts, and serve our church family.

· **Pray for greater impact in our community.** Pray that many would participate in our Meals and Missions event Wednesday, October 21 at 6pm. Participate by either dropping off supplies for the Meal Kits or enjoying a meal and putting the kits together in support of Neighbors Feeding Neighbors.

Scan this code to make an Offering or Gift to the church,
or
Click here

Scan this code to register your Worship Attendance,
or
Cick here.

Children and Youth Ministry

Confirmation & Sunday School News

Growing in Faith, Serving with Joy!

Sunday, October 25, will be a special day for our Sunday School and Confirmation students!

Our Sunday School children and families are looking forward to hosting **Coffee Fellowship** following worship. With the help of our wonderful teachers and families, there will be plenty of delicious treats to share, including some homemade goodies when possible! But the sweetest part of the morning will surely be the happy, smiling faces of our children as they help serve their church family. What a wonderful way for our youngest members to experience the joy of giving and serving others!

Our **Confirmation students will also enjoy a special time together on October 25** as they gather with their Faith Partners for their first meeting of the new Confirmation year. For our second-year students, it's an opportunity to reconnect and continue building relationships, while our first-year students begin getting to know their new Faith Partners.

Faith Partners are caring adults from our congregation who walk alongside our young people as they explore their faith. Through prayer, conversation, encouragement, and friendship, they help students discover what it means to follow Christ and become active members of our church family and write their Faith Statements. These relationships are a beautiful reminder that growing in faith is something
we do together, across generations.

Our upcoming Scripture readings offer wonderful encouragement for these young people and for all of us. **Joshua 1:1–9** reminds us to be strong and courageous, knowing that God is with us. **Isaiah 43:18–19** encourages us to recognize the new things God is doing in our lives, while **Philippians 1:3–6** reminds us to be thankful for one another and trust that God will continue the good work begun in us.

Whether it's serving a plate of cookies with a smile or sharing a meaningful conversation about faith,
our children and youth are learning that even small acts of love can make a big difference.

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, families, Confirmation leaders, and Faith Partners for helping plant the seeds of faith that will continue to grow for years to come!

-Sue D.

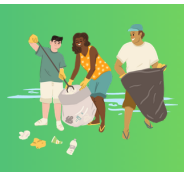
Contact Info:

email: childrens@bufflaoumc.com phone: 763.684.3538 ext 115

Discipleship Hub

Welcome to our Discipleship Hub! This page is designed as an easy-access resource for our discipleship teams, bringing together the information you need in one place. We're grateful for your faithful service and look forward to supporting you as we grow in faith and fellowship.

From the Property Team



The fall Church Work Day on Oct. 10th was a great success, with volunteers tackling a variety of projects to help keep our facilities looking their best. Much of the day's effort focused on preparations for our 140/40 Celebration activities, while additional teams worked on cleaning the lighted church sign, washing office windows, dusting and cleaning light fixtures, weeding, and other outdoor beautification projects. Seasonal cleaning and maintenance tasks were also completed throughout the building. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to care for our church home. Church Work Days are held just twice each year, typically in the spring and again in the fall, and they make a tremendous difference in maintaining our facilities for ministry and fellowship.

Welcome Helpers

Gloria Farwick/ Guest Connections

Oct 25 - Sally P. & Norm G.
Nov 1 - Barb O. & Gloria F.

Coffee Servers

Marcia Plaschko/ Office Admin

Oct. 25 - Sunday School Families
Nov 1 - Jean & Peter Metcalf

Scripture Readers

Amy Austin /Worship Coordinator

Oct. 25 - Dale L.
Nov. 1 - Micheal M.

Communion Servers

Amy Austin/ Worship Coordinator

November
Barb S., Gayle R., Jane & Loren V., Mike K.

Safety Response Team

Oct. 25 - Randy W
Nov. 1 - TBD

Staff Contacts:

Amy Strom/Pastor
pastoramy@buffaloumc.com

Amy Austin/Worship Coordinator
amya@buffaloumc.com

Sue Davies/Children's Ministries & Youth Coordinator
childrens@buffaloumc.com

Marcia Plaschko/Administrative Assistant
office@buffaloumc.com