BUFFALO UNITED METHODIST

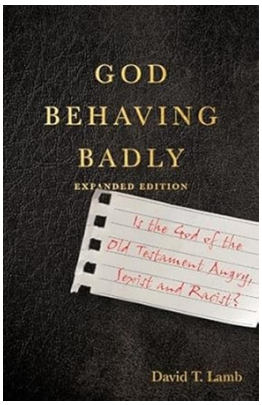
So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—Jan. 30

Worship: Sunday, Feb. 1 @ 9:00 & 10:30 am

Also on Buffalo United Methodist Church's Facebook Page & YouTube!

Sermon Series — God Behaving Badly?



Many people picture God as wrathful and angry—a deity who smites people left and right for reasons that aren't always clear. Parts of the Old Testament can seem to reinforce this image: the flood, nations destroyed, armies wiped out, judgment falling with what looks like extreme prejudice.

But wait—there's more to the story. Right alongside these troubling passages are some of the most beautiful portraits of God's love, mercy, patience, and forgiveness. We meet a God who is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love," even in the very same pages that challenge us.

So how do we hold these truths together? How do we make sense of what feels like a contradiction—not just intellectually, but emotionally and spiritually? Can a God who judges and is angry also be trusted? Can a God who forgives also be rightly feared?

This series, God Behaving Badly, based on David T. Lamb's book, invites us to correct our vision of God. Together, we'll explore Scripture with fresh eyes, wrestling with the hard questions about God's anger, justice, mercy, and love. We'll see that God's character is rich, complex, and ultimately trustworthy. By looking carefully at the stories and words of Scripture, we begin to see God more clearly—not as harsh or distant, but as holy, loving, and faithful.

Over the coming weeks, we will learn to remove the distortions, put on the lens of Scripture, and encounter God as He truly is. Our hope is that by the end, our vision of God will be clearer, deeper, and life-changing.

This Sunday - Is God Racist or Hospitable? | Genesis 9:18-27, Joshua 10:40-42

Stories like Noah cursing Canaan and Joshua's conquest have been misused to justify racism and violence. When God commands destruction or one group is cursed, it raises an unsettling question: Is God racist or hospitable? Does Scripture promote division, or does it reveal a God who welcomes the outsider and blesses all nations? How we read these texts shapes how we see God—and each other. This Sunday find out how this real answer matters.
find out.

Communion This Sunday

Our worship this Sunday will also include Holy Communion. In the United Methodist Church, all are welcome at the table, as we understand Communion to be the gift of Jesus Christ to anyone of any age who desires a closer relationship with Him.

Other Ministry Updates

Feb 1	**9:00 am** Contemporary Worship with Communion **10:00 am** Education Hour **10:00 am** Fellowship **10:30 am** Traditional Worship with Communion
Feb 2	**6:00 pm** Praise & Coffee
Feb 3	**1:00 pm** Guest Connection Meeting **4:15 pm** Worship Design Meeting **7:00 pm** Property Team Meeting
Feb 4	**6:30 pm** Handbells
Feb 6	**10:00 am** Soup-er Bowl Cooking
Feb 8	**9:00 am** Worship with Handbells **10:00 am** Education Hour **10:00 am** Fellowship & Soup-er Bowl Sales **10:15 am** Membership Class **10:30 am** Game Day

It's time for the Soup-er Bowl!

Join Debbie Bishop on **Friday, Feb 6 at 10:00 am** to help make soup to sell on Soup-er Bowl Sunday! We will be making Turkey noodle, spilt pea and ham, and potato soup. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board so sign up today! NO experience needed!!

Membership Class

Come learn more about Buffalo UMC and Methodism in general on **Sunday, Feb 8th at 10:15 am** in the conference room. All are welcome whether contemplating membership or not. It's a great chance to get to know some other people, and get information. Those who choose to join following the class will be received as members on **Sunday, February 15** during worship. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call church to let us know you're coming. The nursery will also be available.

Northwinds School Outreach

It is time again to support our church's neighborhood school, Northwinds Elementary. In the past, BUMC has provided teachers and staff with a meal during the school's parent-teacher conferences. We have again committed to providing food on **Thursday, February 12.** If you are willing to make some food, help set up around 1:30 pm, or take down at 7:00 pm, please contact Rita Varner Otness.

Children

This month we are starting a new unit in Sunday School. Kid's will continue to learn about how to follow Jesus. They will learn about different spiritual disciplines which are different things we do to grow closer to God. This week we will be learning about Worship and how Worship can grow us closer to God. Kid's will learn what is mean to Worship and why we Worship God.

Confirmation

This Sunday Confirmation Students will be on lesson 8 where they will learn about Wesley and the Methodist. Students will learn about the history of John Welsey and how he was influenced to start the Methodist movement.

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Drivers Needed

February is our designated month to support Meals on Wheels. There is a new sign-up process for volunteer drivers. Catholic Charities of St. Cloud has implemented a registration system through VolunteerHub. Please use this link or QR code to sign up: This system is new, so if you need assistance or have questions, please contact Stacy @ 320-229-4592.

Summer Camp 2026 Registration Is Open

Take a mental break from this cold winter, and imagine the warm crackle of campfire, the taste of s'mores, and the voices of friends singing camp songs about Jesus together. All this will be happening in a few short months! Now is the time to sign up for camp: for yourself, for children at your church, or for your family. "In a world that seems to want to tear us apart, summer camp is a place for coming together," said Dan Ziegler, director of Koronis Ministries. Learn about what is new and exciting this year at each Camp Minnesota location. Read article / Register for camp

Other Ministry Updates

Security Task Force Update

The Security Task Force has been working behind the scenes for several months, and here is the current proposal presented to and approved by Leadership Team:

- The Team will be renamed "Safety Response Team" and will include plans for all types of disasters (including but not limited to): fire, severe weather, medical issues, disruptive behaviors.
- The Team should include about 6 members and will work in conjunction with the Ministry Teams as needed.
- Interested volunteers should be skilled in organization, concrete planning and execution, and working well with others.
- The goal will be improving overall safety of our church.

- Please contact Collin Gravely or Gloria Farwick to volunteer or seek more information.

Wrapped in Love

As people of faith, we are called to help create a world where there is room for all. Providing sanctuary is part of the Christmas story—and part of our ongoing story. *Wrapped in Love* is a continuing mission at BUMC that supports adopted children and foster families. By donating **new socks and underwear**, you offer a simple but meaningful reminder that they are seen, welcomed, and loved—by us and by Jesus.

Please place donations in the marked box in the coat room. Cash donations are also welcome; contact Michelle, and Rita Varner Otness will shop on your behalf.

Thank You!

- Thanks to all who continue to donate blankets for the Food Shelf. Not only is the need for them ongoing, but they are so appreciated.
- Thank you so much for your year end donation of $500.00 to Common Hope! Reflecting on our upcoming 40th anniversary, it's truly Faith Partners like you that fuel our commitments to over 2,000 families each year. Hope to see you in the new year! -*Common Hope*

Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

BUMC is now serving as a food pantry in partnership with *Neighbors Feeding Neighbors*. This community-based nonprofit has stocked our coatroom with free meal kits to help improve food accessibility in Buffalo. The kits are available to those in need during regular office hours, Tuesday-Thursday. Each package includes shelf-stable ingredients designed to feed up to four people, requiring little or no additional items.

Praise & Coffee

Join us for a community-wide gathering for men and women to enjoy fellowship, fun, conversation, and faith. Coffee is available, along with plenty of other drink options. Feel free to grab dinner before you come—or order while you're there. This is a relaxed, casual time to connect and enjoy one another's company. We meet the first Monday of each month, **February 2, at 6:00 PM** in the side room at Perkins in Buffalo. Questions? Contact Sheryl Lehman at (763) 229-0340.

Ride Needed

We are still looking for volunteers willing to provide rides for Sunday worship for a woman at Woodmere in Buffalo. If you are able to help—either regularly or occasionally, a sign-up schedule is located on Michelle's desk. Thank you for helping us extend a warm welcome.

Gift Card Scams

This is a friendly reminder that Pastor Amy and other church staff will never text or email you with a request to buy gift cards, transfer or send money, or anything else like that. If it looks like a scam, it usually is. This is a well-known scam that has been in operation for years.