BUFFALO UNITED METHODIST

So All May Know Joy

BUMC Weekly Connection—July 3rd

Worship: Sunday, July 5 @ 9:00 am

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

June 26, 2026

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.
As our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we are invited to reflect on liberty, belonging, and our shared responsibilities.
I believe anniversaries invite more than celebration—though celebration is warranted.
Anniversaries also invite gratitude, truth-telling, and discernment. They ask us to remember where we have come from, honestly assess where we are, and consider what kind of future we hope to build together.
Writing to God's people in exile, the prophet Jeremiah offered this instruction:

"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you ... for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (Jeremiah 29:7)

The Hebrew word translated as "welfare" is *shalom*: peace, wholeness, flourishing, justice, and well-being.
These words were spoken not to citizens, but to exiles. Their commitment to the common good flowed not from status or power, but from their identity as God's people.
That vision speaks powerfully into our own moment.
Some of us trace our family stories to the First Nations peoples who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial. Some descend from those who crossed oceans seeking opportunity and refuge. Some are descendants of those brought here against their will. Some arrived recently. Some are citizens. Some are permanent residents. Some are still seeking a place to call home.
Yet all of us are neighbors, and all of us are bound together in one another's flourishing.
As we tell the story of our nation, we must also tell it truthfully. We remember Indigenous communities who experienced the loss of land, language, and culture; African men, women, and children who were enslaved while others proclaimed freedom; and generations of immigrants and laborers who endured hardship in pursuit of belonging.
These stories do not diminish our nation. They deepen our understanding of it.
The Christian faith teaches that healing begins with truth. Confession is not the opposite of hope; it is often the doorway to hope.
The Apostle Paul reminds us: "Our citizenship is in heaven." (Philippians 3:20)
Christians live with a kind of dual citizenship. We belong to the communities and nations in which we live, yet our deepest identity is found in the Kingdom of God. That citizenship shapes every other loyalty and reminds us that no earthly power can claim the devotion that belongs to God alone.
In every generation, Christians face the temptation to confuse love of country with devotion to God. The Church serves the nation best not when it becomes the chaplain of power, but when it remains faithful to Jesus Christ.
In the Wesleyan tradition, freedom is not merely freedom *from* something. It is freedom *for* something: loving God, loving neighbor, pursuing mercy and justice, and participating in God's healing work in the world.
Jesus expressed this calling simply:

"You are the salt of the earth."
"You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13-14)

Which brings us to another enduring symbol: the torch of the Statue of Liberty.
A torch provides light. It helps people find their way.
The Statue of Liberty lifts her light toward the horizon. The Church carries another light: the light of Christ.
As we approach this anniversary, may we resist both cynicism and nostalgia. May we seek the *shalom* of the places where God has planted us. May we welcome the stranger, pursue justice, build peace, and love our neighbors.
Every generation receives the torch of liberty.
The question is how we will carry it.
May we carry it with humility, courage, compassion, and hope.
Whether citizen or newcomer, native-born or newly arrived, may we seek together the flourishing of our communities and all God's children.

Bishop Ronette R Plambeck

Next Sunday — Grieve and Live | Psalms 30:1–5 and 2 Corinthians 6:10

Other Ministry Updates

July 5	**9:00 am** Worship
	10:00 am Fellowship
July 6	**6:00 pm** Praise & Coffee
July 7	**1:00 pm** Guest Connection Mtg
	4:15 pm Worship Design Team Mtg
July 8	**9:30 am** Reading in the Park
	6:30 pm *The Chosen* **Summer**

Holy Communion this Sunday

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. Please wear a nametag t so that all may be known by name at the Lord's Table. Ushers will direct the congregation forward down the center aisle.

Praise & Coffee

Join us for a community wide gathering for men and women to enjoy a time of fellowship, fun, coffee and God! Don't drink coffee? No problem – there are plenty of other options. Grab dinner before you come or have dinner while you're there. This is a casual time to enjoy each other's company! We'll be meeting every first Monday (**July 6**)of each month **at 6:00 pm** in the side room at Perkins in Buffalo.

SummerReading in the Park

Our Summer Reading in the Park program has kicked off and continues each **Wednesday from 9:30 – 10:30 am** through **August 19.** Please help spread the word about this great ministry in "The Park"!!

Movie Nights at BUMC

Wednesdays through August 12 | 6:30 PM

Join us this **Wednesday** for Movie Night at BUMC featuring *The Chosen: Season 4*! Gather with friends, family, and neighbors for an inspiring evening of fellowship, free popcorn, and meaningful storytelling as we experience the life of Jesus in a fresh and powerful way. Whether you are new to the series or have watched from the beginning, all are welcome.

BUMC Apparel For Sale

As a fundraiser for our upcoming 140/40 Celebration, we are selling BUMC merch. Please stop at the table in the church entry the next three Sundays to purchase items we have or to preorder. We will be taking orders through July 12. Also check out the BUMC Facebook page for more information.

Mark Your Calendars

Join us on **Sunday, July 12**, for a fun-filled All-Church Picnic as we gather for fellowship, food, and activities for all ages. Highlights of the day

will include an exciting Scavenger Hunt and a special Historical Salad Luncheon, featuring favorite recipes and traditions from years gone by, also serving hot dogs. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with church family, make new memories, and celebrate our shared history together. We hope you'll plan to join us for this special day of community and fellowship!

Wrapped in Love

Support adopted and foster children by donating new socks and underwear. Place items in the coat room box. Cash donations welcome. -contact Rita Varner Otness. Please donate the following clothing needs into our donation box: Boys size large socks, Women's underwear all sizes, and women's white so

Blankets for Beds

Donate new or gently used blankets/linens by dropping off or if you need them picked up, call Dianne McLain 763-682-2260. The need is still great.

Secure Giving

Worship Registration