BUMC Weekly CONNECTION

October 14 2026

Sunday Service

Celbrating Laity Sunday
Amy Austin
October 18, 2026
9am Service

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 6:8

Joy in the Journey
WITH PASTOR AMY

Explaining the Shift from Individual Conferences to Cluster Conferences

The Minnesota Conference of The United Methodist Church is now authorizing **cluster conferences** — gatherings of multiple churches in a district — instead of holding every church's own separate annual "church conference".

In a cluster conference, churches come together in a designated location to share reports, hear stories, and discuss ministry in a connected setting. This is different from a traditional church conference, where all members have a vote and the meeting is held at the individual church.

According to the Minnesota Conference, this change is part of a broader effort to **improve ministry storytelling, strengthen connectional ministry, and align with other jurisdictions.** The change also responds to updates in the Book of Discipline and to the denomination's consideration of regionalization. By clustering churches, leaders can:

- **Hear the stories behind the data** in charge conference reports, making ministry more visible and personal.
- **Share best practices** across churches in the same district, fostering collaboration.
- **Streamline reporting** and ensure Minnesota's records match those of neighboring conferences.
- **Support clergy and deacons** in extension ministry appointments, with new forms and processes in place.

How it works

- **Authorization**: The conference superintendent must approve the cluster conference, and an ordained elder or an ordained deacon must preside.
- **Scheduling**: The superintendent will contact churches in the fall to set dates.
- **Participation**: Churches prepare their required reports (e.g., ministry, clergy, deacon, historian) and present them at the cluster meeting.
- **Record-keeping**: Reports become part of the permanent record at the conference office.

This change from individual church conferences to **cluster conferences** is to make ministry more visible, collaborative, and aligned with national and regional practices. It's a way to **connect churches, share stories, and strengthen the whole district** while still meeting the requirements of the Book of Discipline.

Our Cluster Conference is being held at our church on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00am to 10:30am! And EVERYONE from our church is welcome to attend! Come and be a part of the decisions being made (only members can vote) on the membership rolls, committee leaders, and the ministry budget (including Pastoral Compensation, Housing Allowance, and Pension).

And our Annual Church Conference will now become our **2026 Annual Church Celebration!** Immediately following our service on Sunday, October 25th, we will celebrate the past year of ministry, review the decisions made the day before at our 2026 Cluster Conference, and spend some time anticipating and dreaming for what is to come in 2027.

Oct 18	9:00 am	Sunday Service
	10:00 am	Fellowship
Oct 20	4:00 pm	Staff Parish Relations Mtg
Oct 21	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Oct 21	6:00 pm	Meals & Misions

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!

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

Helping Our Neighbors One Meal at a Time

Wednesday, October 21 | 6:00 PM

Join us for a special evening of food, fellowship, and service as we come together to support **Neighbors Feeding Neighbors**, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to building stronger families and communities by improving access to food.

We invite **all church members, families, and Confirmation students** to participate in this meaningful service opportunity! We will begin at 6:00 PM by sharing a meal together—the very same meal that we will be packing into grocery bags for families in our community experiencing food insecurity.

Following dinner, we will work together to assemble bags containing the ingredients needed to prepare a meal for a family of four. These bags will be distributed free of charge through Neighbors Feeding Neighbors, helping local families put a warm, nourishing meal on their tables.

We need your help to make this happen! A list of needed grocery items is available in the church's front hallway. Please pick up a list, purchase the items, and **return your grocery** ona**tions to church no later than Sunday, October 18**. This will give us time to organize everything before our packing event on Wednesday, October 21. Every donation, big or small, will help us share God's love with our neighbors!

This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family, Confirmation students, and Faith Partners to come together, strengthen their relationships, and grow in faith through a shared ministry project. Working side by side to help others is a meaningful way to build connections across generations while putting God's love into action right here in our community.

We especially encourage all Confirmation students to attend! **Confirmation students who participate in packing the meal bags will earn service hours that count toward their yearly Confirmation requirement.**
What a great way to make progress toward their annual goal while sharing God's love with others!

This is an opportunity for the entire congregation—young and old—to come together and make a difference! Come share a meal, lend a hand, and help feed our neighbors. Together, we can turn a simple bag of groceries into a gift of hope!

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.

Theo of Golden Book Club

Theo of Golden Monthly Book Club

Starting Wednesday, **October 28th** at 4:00pm, join us for a monthly book club inspired by Allen Levi's wonderful book Theo of Golden. We'll gather for about an hour and a half to discuss the latest chapter(s) and brainstorm ways to personally put generosity into practice in the coming month.

Whether you love a good story or simply want to support and grow alongside others, we hope you'll consider joining us for this low key gathering.

Welcome Helpers

Gloria Farwick/ Guest Connections

Oct 18 - Barb O. & Gloria F.
Oct 25 - Sally P. & Barbara S.

Coffee Servers

Marcia Plaschko/ Office Admin

Oct. 18 - Alison D. & Art P.
Oct. 25 - Sunday School Families

Scripture Readers

Amy Austin /Worship Coordinator

Oct. 18 - Gloria F.
Oct. 25 - Dale L.

Communion Servers

Amy Austin/ Worship Coordinator

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

Safety Response Team

Oct. 18 - Bruce D.
Oct. 25 - Randy W.

Staff Contacts:

Amy Strom/Pastor
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Sue Davies/Children's Ministries & Youth Coordinator
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Marcia Plaschko/Administrative Assistant
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