BUMC Weekly CONNECTION

September 30, 2026

SUNDAY SERVICE

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"
With Pastor Amy Strom
October 4, 2026
9am Service

SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:21-26
Psalm 100
Deuteronomy 7:9

Joy in the Journey
WITH PASTOR AMY

As we prepare for our 140/40 Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 11, I find myself reflecting on the words of Paul in Colossians 1:3: "*We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.*"

Recently, I was reading A Year in Colossians, a devotional and commentary by David J. Landegent, and his reflection on this verse caught my attention. Landegent points out that Paul does not simply thank his readers for the good things they are doing. (In other letters Paul does thank individuals.) But here instead, Paul says that he thanks God for them. Paul sees God at work in everything and his gratitude ultimately points back to God. And Landegent continues, when someone says, "Thank you for helping out.", we feel appreciated, but when they say, "I thank God for you.", we feel even more appreciated, and are delighted to know God is using us in His work. I love that perspective!

As we prepare to celebrate 140 years of ministry and 40 years in our current church location, we certainly have much for which to be thankful. We have been remembering those who have gone before us, the ministries that have shaped our church, and the many people who have given their time, gifts, prayers, and love throughout the years. But ultimately, our celebration is not simply about what others have done before us or even what we have done. It is about what God has done.

God has called BUMC into existence and sustained us. God has carried us through seasons of joy and difficulty. God has brought people into our congregation and given them gifts to serve. God has worked through countless ordinary acts of faithfulness to make a difference in the lives of countless others.

And so, as we approach Sunday, October 11, I want to say to each of you: I thank God for you. I thank God for this congregation—for those who have served faithfully, welcomed others, taught and encouraged, prayed and given, led and followed, and helped make this church a place where people can encounter the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

What a gift it is to my soul to celebrate this milestone together! May our anniversary celebration be more than a look back at our history. May it be an opportunity to recognize God's faithfulness, give thanks for the people God has placed in our lives, and look toward our future with hope.

Open our eyes, Lord, so we can see Your hand at work in the people around us, and THANK YOU Lord, for all of it. Amen.

Other Ministry News

Oct 4	9 am	Sunday Service
	10 am	Apple Pie Fellowship
Oct 5	6 pm	Praise & Coffee
Oct 6	1:00 pm	Guest Connections Team Mtg
	4:15 pm	Worship Design Team Mtg
	7:00 pm	Property Team Mtg
Oct 7	6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal

Wrapped in Love ~BUMC Outreach

Wrapped in Love is a nonprofit store in downtown Buffalo serving foster and adoptive families in our community. BUMC is continuing to support this important outreach by collecting new socks and skivvies (underwear), which are always in high demand. Please place your new donations in the Wrapped in Love box located in the church entry. **Questions? Contact Rita Varner-Otness.**

Blankets for Beds

As the temperatures drop and the nights grow longer, many in our community are feeling the chill more than ever. Our local food shelf is currently accepting donations of gently used bedding, including blankets, comforters, sheets, pillowcases, and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the church and placed in the basket near the church office.

Ride to Church Needed

Could you help a fellow church member get to worship? **Norm Varner**, who lives at Havenwood in Buffalo, would be grateful for a ride to and from church on Sundays. His contact information and a volunteer sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board across from the office, next to the Homebound Members list. If you're able to help, please contact **Robin Anderson** or add your name to the sign-up sheet. Thank you for considering this simple way to share care and fellowship!

· **Pray for generous and faithful giving.** Pray that God would cultivate generous hearts and that each of us would prayerfully consider how God is calling us to give. May our giving reflect gratitude, strengthen our church's ministry, and help us reach more people with the love and hope of Christ.

· **Pray for willing hearts to serve.** Several committee and ministry team members 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 we would reach beyond our church walls, see the needs around us, respond with compassion, and find opportunities to serve, encourage, and share God's love.

BUFFALO UNITED METHODIST
So All May Know Joy

763.684.3538

Office@Buffaloumc.com
Prayers@buffaloumc.com

www.buffaloumc.org

609 8th St NW
Buffalo, MN 55313

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 News

Our Confirmation program is about much more than completing hours. Our goal is to help our young people grow in their faith, discover what it means to serve others, and become active members of our congregation.

Students participate in Confirmation for two years, completing **70 hours each year** of faith formation and service. These hours include 26 hours of Sunday worship, 26 classroom lessons and faith partner meetings, and 18 hours of service to the church or community. Some lessons may also be completed at home when needed.

The 18 service hours give students an opportunity to put their faith into action by helping others and making a positive difference. Service opportunities might include helping with projects or activities at church, assisting a church member or neighbor, volunteering at a food shelf or library, or finding another meaningful way to serve. Students who need ideas for volunteer opportunities may contact Gayle Reed, our volunteer coordinator.

A special service opportunity is coming **October 11! During our 140/40 Celebration**, Confirmation students can earn service hours by helping set up and assist with games and activities instead of attending regular confirmation time that day. More information will be coming soon.

We also invite our high school youth to help with the 140/40 Celebration. Students needing volunteer hours for National Honor Society or other service requirements can help with setup and supervising games and activities while being part of this special day in the life of our church.

~ Sue D.

Sunday School News

And our Confirmation students aren't the only young people learning about service! Our Sunday school children will also have opportunities throughout the year to serve both our congregation and our community. One of those opportunities will be **October 25, when our Sunday school children will help with Coffee Fellowship.** They will have a chance to greet members of the congregation, serve others, and discover that even our youngest members have important gifts to share.

Service doesn't always have to happen through an organized activity. There are many things our children and youth can do at church, in the community, and at home. We encourage families to look for those everyday opportunities to help someone, show kindness, and put faith into action. And we'd love to see it! Confirmation and Sunday School families, please take pictures of your children and youth serving others and send them to Sue Davies: childrens@buffaloumc.com. We would love to share and celebrate the many ways our young people are living out their faith.

Through worship, learning, prayer, relationships, and service, we hope our children and youth discover that faith isn't simply something we learn about on Sundays—it is something we live every day. ~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.

A Message From Congregational Care

Each time I see the kite on our wall, with 133 bows flowing along its long tail, my heart fills with joy. Every bow holds a heartfelt blessing shared by someone in our church family—a small but beautiful glimpse into a life touched by God's grace.

As I read the blessings, I could feel the thought, gratitude, and love behind each one. Some were clearly written by children, whose simple, open, and honest words were especially touching. Their blessings reminded me that even the smallest moments can leave a lasting mark on a heart.

Many of the messages brought tears to my eyes because I knew they came from a place of deep sincerity. They are more than words on bows; they are precious memories, testimonies of gratitude, and reminders of the ways God is present in our lives. Looking at them made me realize how fully our members opened their hearts—not only to give thanks for the blessings they had received, but also to share those blessings so that others might feel encouraged and blessed in return.

~Robin Anderson

Welcome Helpers

Gloria Farwick/ Guest Connections

Oct 04 - Norm & Gloria

Oct 11 - TBD

Coffee Servers

Marcia Plaschko/ Office Admin

Oct 4 - Glenda & Vicky Kath

Oct 11 - 140/40 Celebration

Scripture Readers

Amy Austin /Worship Coordinator

Oct. 04 - Jean Metcalf

Oct. 11- Jerry Ford

Communion Servers

Amy Austin/ Worship Coordinator

November

Barb Sande, Gayle R., Jane and Loren V., Mike K.

Safety Response Team

Oct. 04 - Amy A.

Oct 11 - 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