

# THE NEW TIMES

April 2020

---

## Pastor's Page

These are uncertain and unusual times we find ourselves in as we close out the season of Lent and prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. In a way it seems that Lent has been added to in a form we weren't prepared for or expecting. While Holy Week will be upon us before we know it (the first full week of April) Easter can seem further away than ever as we are isolated at home and separated from one another, friends, and family.

Easter is a semi fixed day on the church calendar, one that moves based on the cycle of the seasons and the movement of the heavens, not the health or economy of our country or world. Yet every Sunday is a little Easter for us, as we remember the resurrection of Jesus each and every Sunday and call it the Lord's Day. So while we may not be gathered in person to worship and fellowship on Easter Sunday this year, we can be guaranteed that whatever Sunday we rejoin each other in person for worship will be Easter for us.

Until that day, as we wait in uncertainty, anxiety, loneliness (or whatever you are experiencing) we have the solidarity of our Lord and his disciples with us. On the night before he was executed by the state Jesus ate with his disciples and then went to a garden to pray. In that garden Jesus agonized before God with the weight of what was before him. He experienced the fear, anxiety, sorrow, and isolation that many of us and many around us are experiencing. In that moment he cried out to God in prayer, entrusting himself to his Father in heaven. Surely God, in Christ, has known all that it is to be human and thus stands in solidarity with us in all that these times hold.

---

Similarly Jesus' disciples on the days following his crucifixion hid themselves away at home, surely filled with sadness, fear, and uncertainty, as the man they believed to be the Messiah was now dead. They couldn't have known whether the authorities would come for them next and even if they were safe many of them had left livelihood and family behind in order to follow this rabbi. What would they do now? Would they be accepted back by their families and villages? I imagine that the uncertainty would have been scary and potentially overwhelming for them. On that Holy Saturday before Jesus rose we find the disciples in solidarity with us living in uncertainty as much of what they have known changed overnight.

In the midst of all that is happening and all that we are feeling and experiencing know that Jesus and his disciples stand in solidarity with us. Know that there are people the world over who are feeling and experiencing much of what we are. And be assured of my prayers for and with you. And may we all know the hope of Easter, that Christ is already risen from the dead, and that whatever Sunday we are able to worship together in body and spirit we will have Easter!

The grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all,

Pastor Brian

---

## Opportunities for Outreach and Service

-The Buffalo Food Shelf is in need of donations and volunteers, for more information please see their website: <https://buffalofoodshelf.com/>.

The Buffalo Food Shelf has several extra meal offerings for children and teens at this time, more information can be found on their website. Their hours of operation are:

1st Monday of the Month (Senior Day): 10:30 am – 12:30 am

Tuesday: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Thursday: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Friday: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

-Another opportunity is to make face masks for the hospital in Buffalo. If you are interested in this opportunity please follow this link:

<https://www.allinahealth.org/about-us/newsroom/2020/allina-health-calls-on-public-for-donations-of-face-masks>

-BPC has a mini food shelf set up in the Fellowship Hall. If you need groceries and don't feel comfortable going to the store or are having trouble making ends meet please stop by and help yourself, or contact Pastor Brian or Christy to have food brought to you.

-If you'd like to donate to the BPC Mini Food Shelf please contact Christy.

-If you are able to help deliver groceries or other essentials to folks at home please let Christy know.

### Note from Christy

If you are trying to reach me please feel free to call or text me at 763-227-9725. I will continue to check my email ([office@buffalopresbyterian.org](mailto:office@buffalopresbyterian.org)) and will respond. I hope everyone is staying healthy and safe during these times!

---

## March donations decrease during coronavirus pandemic

Church Treasurer Chuck Klaassen reported to the Session that donations in March had decreased over \$1,000 per week compared to giving in March, 2019. Because most of the church's giving comes from the offering plate at Sunday worship, the past three weeks of virtual worship have had a substantial impact on our giving. Here's what you can do. Please continue to honor your church pledge by giving through the U.S. Mail, through the QR code in the weekly bulletin, clicking on the "Donate Today" button on the church website, or by setting up "bill pay" through your financial institution.

The Session is committed to paying our personnel, the largest portion of our budget, through the pandemic. Other church expenses continue as well so your support is crucial. We understand that not everyone will be able to continue their pledged giving during the pandemic. That means that those of us who can continue to give need to do so during this time. For those who have been financially impacted by the pandemic, please use the resources that you'll find elsewhere in the newsletter. Please let the church know of any support you need. Together, with God's help, we will come through this challenge stronger than ever. Stay well!

## Prayers and Readings for Holy Week

### **Palm Sunday:**

We Praise you, O God, for your redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, who entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph and was proclaimed Messiah and King by those who spread garment and branches along his way. Let our praises be signs of his victory, and grant that we sing to his glory may follow him in the way of the cross, that, dying and rising with him, we may enter into your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

Matthew 21:1-11

---

**Holy Monday:**

Holy God, as Christ cleansed the Temple after entering Jerusalem, cleanse us from all unrighteousness that we might be temples for your most Holy Spirit and that in all we do we might proclaim your glory. Through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

Hebrews 9:11-15

**Holy Tuesday:**

Merciful God, just as Jesus entered Jerusalem knowing he would face his death, by which he secured life eternal for us, help us to live this life just as boldly; that all we might proclaim him Lord in all we say and do. Amen.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

**Holy Wednesday:**

Gracious and Holy One, as Mary used much costly perfume to anoint Jesus' feet as an offering of care and reverence, may we give the whole of our being as an offering to you and in care for the entirety of your creation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

John 12:1-8

**Maundy Thursday:**

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that each time we receive it we do so thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 26:17-30

**Good Friday:**

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

---

### **Holy Saturday:**

O God, as we remember on this day how Jesus experienced the fullness of death may we remember the grace and love expressed in your solidarity with the whole of human experience in Jesus your incarnate Son. Amen.

John 19:38-42

### **Easter/Resurrection Sunday:**

Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

John 20:1-18

## **For Kids and Families**

Spark House (a Christian Education curriculum publisher) will have free activities for families every day between Palm Sunday and Easter. Please see their Facebook or Instagram account to access their resources. Their accounts can be accessed via their website:

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/>

### **Holy Week Scavenger Hunt:**

Looking for something fun to do during Holy Week? Take part in our Scavenger Hunt! Each day there is an item to take a picture of and post (or have your parents post) to Facebook or Instagram. See how creative you can be in finding the items! Don't forget to use #BPCScavengerHunt so that we can find your pics! If you don't have social media feel free to send the pics to Pastor Brian. [brian@buffalopresbyterian.org](mailto:brian@buffalopresbyterian.org)

Palm Sunday: A palm or a coat (Jesus enters Jerusalem and people wave palm branches)

Monday: Money (Jesus chases the money changers out of the temple)

Tuesday: Hair (Mary washes Jesus' feet with perfume and dries them with her hair)

Wednesday: A Towel (Jesus washes the Disciples Feet)

---

Maundy Thursday: Bread (Jesus and the Disciples have the Last Supper)

Good Friday: A Nail (Jesus is nailed to the cross)

Holy Saturday: A rock (Jesus was laid in a tomb sealed with a rock)

Easter Sunday: An empty egg (The tomb is empty and Jesus is risen!)

## COVID19 Information and Resources

We strongly advise everyone to continue following the recommendations from the CDC, WHO, and Minnesota Department of Health, including the following:

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.
- Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home as much as possible, especially when sick

To stay up to date with information regarding the virus and its spread please check

the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

the Minnesota Department of Health:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html>

Important Contacts:

- Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline: (651) 201-3920
- Disaster Distress Hotline: 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66-746
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233
- Free Crisis Text Line: text “MN” to 741741

Those struggling with addiction and substance abuse can access remote support:

- Alcoholics Anonymous is hosting [virtual meetings](#)
- Narcotics Anonymous has [calls and virtual meetings](#).
- Loved ones of those with addiction issues can visit Al-Anon’s [website](#) for resources.

---

The BPC choir is asking for your help. May 17 will be our last Sunday to sing for services until fall. As we have done the last few years, we will join with the Joyful Noise choir to sing some of our favorite songs. Here is where you come in. Please give us the title or maybe you only remember the lyrics to a song that has had special meaning to you. We would like to include them in the service. I am asking that you please contact Mike Agre by April 15. You can put requests in his mailbox or email them to [magre@comcast.net](mailto:magre@comcast.net). Help us make the end of the year special.

Buffalo Presbyterian Church  
507 County Road 134  
Buffalo, MN 55313  
Phone: 763-682-2773  
Email: [office@buffalopresbyterian.org](mailto:office@buffalopresbyterian.org)  
[www.buffalopresbyterian.org](http://www.buffalopresbyterian.org)