



# THE NEW TIMES

## BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Adopt a Family



It's Adopt a Family time once more. This year we have adopted a 4 person family. Items should be dropped off at the church no later than noon on December 6th, there will be a orange box in the narthex to leave them. If you cannot drop it off please let Pastor Brian know and he will arrange for someone to pick it up from you.

The sign up list is online again, here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c44aead22a2fe3-bpcadoptafamily>

Please review the available items and click on the button to sign up. Please **DO NOT** wrap any gifts and, if possible, provide a gift receipt for the item(s) you've purchased. If you have any questions, please contact Ash.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be a brief Christmas Eve service at 4pm on December 24th in the parking lot. This service is weather pending and any cancellation of it will be communicated via email, Facebook, etc. We hope this will give us a chance to gather in person to praise God for the birth of Christ our Lord. There will also be a full online Christmas Eve service regardless of the weather.



## Classes, Coffee and Conversations

*These will be continuing on Sundays at 10:30 am. They will take place on Zoom. The information will be sent via email with the bulletin on Sundays.*

December 6, 13, 20 & 27

### Inside this issue:

*We hope you enjoy our monthly newsletter, **The New Times**.*

*For comments and suggestions, please contact the BPC Office*

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### The Message of the Advent Wreath: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

We mark the weeks of Advent by lighting candles placed in a wreath, one each week, until all are lit and Christmas is here. The candles collectively represent the growing light of Christ in the world. Individually we give them each a word, something found in Christ that they represent for us. The first week is hope, the second is peace, the third is joy, and the fourth is love. I want to take a moment to reflect on each of these as we enter the season of Advent.

Often when we or someone else expresses **hope** there is not certainty that what is hoped for will come to pass. This is the reality of most hopes in our world and thus the lack of certainty can temper our hope. This understanding of hope however should not and does not apply to our hope as Christians. As Christians our hope is for a world renewed, for the coming of the Kingdom of God, for a final end to sin and death in the world and thus an end to the pain and suffering they cause. If we allow this hope to be informed by the world around us we might not have certainty in its outcome, but its foundation is not of the world, but rather of God. The foundation of our hope lies in Christ, the one for whom we wait, the one who has already defeated sin and death in his death and resurrection. As the song goes, "on Christ the solid rock I stand," and so too does our hope.

It seems like conflict is ever present in our society and world, from the combative election cycle to continued news coverage of killings, bombings, and wars around the globe. Then there is the conflict that we can experience in our day to day life with co-workers, neighbors, family and friends. Beyond these, there is the internal conflict that one can feel due to relationships, important decisions, personal concerns, etc. If all we take into account are the many areas of conflict in our lives and world it might seem as if **peace** is missing, yet on the second Sunday of Advent we light a candle symbolizing peace. Scripture tells us that Christ is our peace, having reconciled us together with God. Beyond our reconciliation with God we are promised that when God's kingdom has come in full all conflict will end, swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. In Christ we have peace with God and

the promise that there will be an everlasting peace in God's coming kingdom.

On the third Sunday of Advent we light a pink candle to represent **joy**. Outside of Advent and Christmas I don't hear as much focus on joy in the Christian life. We love to sing Joy to the World come Christmas time, but the only other well known hymn that comes to mind is Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee. Yet joy is meant to be a central part of our faith. The Shorter Catechism in the Book of Confession begins with the question, "What is the chief end of [humanity]? [Humanity's] chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy [God] forever." Our life in Christ is meant to be one of joy, a joy that grows out of the hope, peace, and love which we have in Christ.

There is a part of me that wants to leave the reflection on **love** to St. John who summed it up best when saying "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," but I will add something of my own. If I am honest in summing up the core of my experience with God it is love; not my love for God, there is much room for improvement there, but rather God's love for me. The one thing that continuously carries me through my life of faith is God's love for me. This love that I have been taught all my life, that I have witnessed in the words and acts of others, and that I have come to know in the depths of my being as only the Holy Spirit can confirm. Friends, if there is one thing to remember it is that you are utterly and entirely loved by God and there is nothing you need to do to earn it.

So this Advent may you experience anew the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that is ours in Jesus Christ.

-Pastor Brian

# MISSIONS

## BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our Mission Committee will be having mission news on a regular basis in the newsletter, and we hope that you enjoy receiving how BPC is participating in missions. Committee members are: Ash Olsen, Michele Lawlor, Joan Lowe, Mike Quady, and Pastor Brian Entz. (Mary Coleman, Newsletter)

All of the following programs are now available for us to participate in and to help others through our mission work.

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

Your donations will greatly aid in this very special program. On a check, please just put "Christmas Joy" on the memo line. Of course, you may also donate on line. Christmas Joy Offering is from November 29 - December 20.

### 2021 DESK CALENDAR

This was featured in our November "The New Times." This also is a part of our Missions program. Joan Lowe created this wonderful desk calendar that shares photos and history from the beginning of our Community Church Garden. It's the perfect gift for anyone on your gift list. Donations for the calendar will be appreciated and all proceeds go to the Buffalo Food Shelf. To place your order, please call or email the church office or email [joanlowe@msn.com](mailto:joanlowe@msn.com)

### PC (USA) ALTERNATIVE GIVING CATALOG

This catalog provides ways to help with global and national programs. It is another way to give to help others. This catalog is available on the table in the hall across from the bathrooms. If you are interested here is the link for the PC(USA) Alternative Giving Catalog: <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/gifts/>

### CRAFTY LADIES

As you know, Crafty Ladies is not having their "usual" sale because of the Pandemic. However, many craft items are on tables in Fellowship Hall. Some wonderful items are left for you to see and purchase. You may go into the church when it is open, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Happy shopping, and there is a manila envelope on the table where you may leave cash or a check. **Remember, please**, you must wear a mask when in church.

Crafty Ladies have helped to support Love INC, Clearwater Forest, The Nest, and Rivers of Hope, to name but a few.

### MISSION CONNECTIONS

Pastor Entz is Vice Chair of the Buffalo Ministerial Association and is a member of the Wright County Anti-Racism Alliance and its Interfaith Outreach Committee. He also has been elected the Vice Moderator of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. His leadership in these areas helps to keep us at BPC aware of mission activities in the Presbyterian Churches in our Presbytery and in our Synod.

We hope you have enjoyed reading about our mission work, and we look forward to bringing you more news next month.

# Buffalo Presbyterian Church

## December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:00a Crafty Ladies 5:00p Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	2 10:00a Personnel Committee Meeting 7:00p Book Study via Zoom 7:00p Youth Adventures with Christ	3 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 6:30p Communications Committee Meeting	4	5
6 9:30a Online Worship 10:30a Classes, Coffee, and Conversations 11:30a Children's Sunday School via Zoom	7	8 9:00a Crafty Ladies 3:15p Finance Committee Meeting 6:30p Missions Committee Meeting	9 10:00a CAP 7:00p Book Study via Zoom 7:00p Youth Adventures with Christ	10 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith	11	12 10:00a PEO
13 9:30a Worship Online 10:30a Classes, Coffee, and Conversations	14 7:00p PEO	15 9:00a Crafty Ladies 6:30p Session	16 7:00p Book Study via Zoom 7:00p Youth Adventures with Christ	17 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith	18	19
20 9:30a Worship Online 10:30a Classes, Coffee, and Conversations 11:30a Children's Sunday School via Zoom	21 6:00p Deacons Meeting	22 9:00a Crafty Ladies	23 7:00p Book Study via Zoom 7:00p Youth Adventures with Christ	24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27 9:30a Worship Online 10:30a Classes, Coffee, and Conversations	28 7:00p Fellowship Committee Meeting	29 9:0a Crafty Ladies	30 7:00p Book Study via Zoom 7:00p Youth Adventures with Christ	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith		



## CAP: It's in the Bag



### **December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020: "White Elephant" CAP Bags**

We are so thankful to everyone who has supported the CAP program. For the December CAP activity, "White Elephant" CAP Bags will be filled and distributed on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Contents of the Bags may include; markers, paper, water color paints, quilling strips etc. Each bag will contain unique art supplies. It will be a surprise until you open your Bag. Just think about what you can create!

**We will hand out CAP at BPC, or deliver you if you prefer. Just let Christy know when you register. Limit for this activity is 15.**

**Register with Christy by December 4th.**

**Bag pick up on December 9th from 10:00 - Noon at BPC.**

This opportunity is offered by C.A.P. There is no charge for these activities

To register, please contact Christy at BPC office: 763-682-2773 or

[office@buffalopresbyterian.org](mailto:office@buffalopresbyterian.org)

See you on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Tell a friend

## December Volunteer Schedule

# **Building Cleaning**

December 6, 2020 Marlene Aldrich/Mary Coleman

December 13, 2020 Liz & Chuck Klaassen

December 20, 2020 Diane Ellis

December 27, 2020 Becky & Don Eddy

# Congregational Meeting

The Session of Buffalo Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting for December 13th, 2020 at 10:30am for the purpose of approving the Pastor's 2021 terms of call and giving feedback to the Finance Committee and Session regarding the draft 2021 budget. The meeting will happen via Zoom which you can access using a computer, phone (lane-line, smart phone, or other cell phone), or tablet.

# Poinsettias

If you ordered poinsettias this year, please pick them up between December 21st and 23rd during the office hours of 9am to 1pm.



## Session Summary

Highlights of the November 17 stated meeting

### Session focuses on the 2021 church budget

Elders spent much of the November Session meeting discussing next year's church budget. Although the pandemic has allowed the church to decrease spending in a few minor ways, there is still a need to maintain, and increase current income levels. Most of the church's expenses are in compensating personnel and in maintaining our building and grounds. Those expenditures have not decreased.

Among the Session's current goals are increased mission spending and providing raises for church employees. The church also faces a one-time expense covering a \$2,500 deductible for replacement of the hail-damaged church roof. Achieving these goals will require income increases, pledged giving, from church members and friends.

The budget was the subject of a Zoom conversation Sunday, November 22. Church members will have an opportunity to comment on the budget at a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 13, at 10:30 am on Zoom. In the coming days, you will receive a copy of the budget to review before the meeting.

Hopefully you've already returned your 2021 pledge. But if you have not yet done so, please return it as soon as possible. Pledge information is necessary for the Session to approve a responsible budget for 2021.

### Brief parking lot service on Christmas Eve is a possibility

The Session approved parking lot service on Christmas Eve. The short service, featuring the Christmas story and singing Silent Night, will depend on weather conditions. Watch for more information on Pastor Brian's weekly email updates.

**To give online, please scan the QR code.**



## Session

*Meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30 pm*

Theresa Bevilacqua  
Mary Coleman  
Al DeBellis  
Cindy Doth  
Don Eddy  
Mandy Harkess  
Mary Markve-Patch  
Ashton Olsen  
Kathy Quady  
Mike Quady  
Pastor Brian Entz

Worship & Music Committee  
At Large  
Fellowship Committee  
Education & Youth Committee  
Building & Grounds Committee  
Communications Committee  
Finance Committee  
Missions Committee  
Personnel Committee  
Clerk of Session  
Moderator

## Board of Deacons

*Meets monthly on the third Monday at 6:00 pm*

Diane Ellis  
Eric Ellwoods  
Linda Sheibel  
Kevin Spike  
Elaine Thole  
George Thole

Deacon Treasurer\*

\*Please note that our Church Treasurer is Del Vanderheiden.



Buffalo Presbyterian Church is a congregation in which

the Word, the Spirit, and the Love of God  
enrich and strengthen us as individuals and families in Christ.

The purpose of this Church is to fully equip us to become  
disciples of Jesus Christ, obeying His commandments to love  
and worship God, love and care for our neighbors, and make  
new disciples in our community and the world.

**BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



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