

**FEBRUARY 2026**

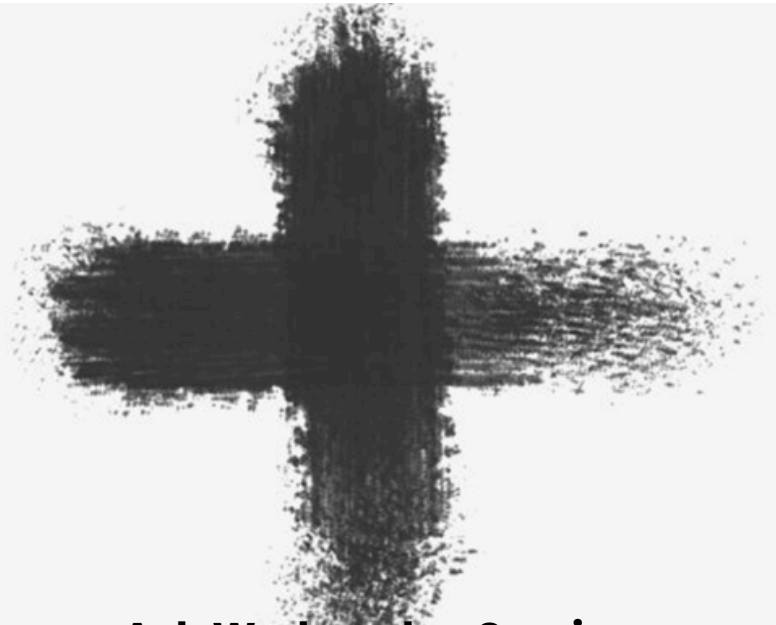
# BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# **GOOD NEWS**



## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- **Pastor Letter**
- **Missions**
- **Volunteers**
- **Thank you note**
- **Session Summary**
- **Lent calendar**



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**  
**6:30 pm**

**The church has a new address:**  
**507 Calder Ave NE**  
**Buffalo MN 55313**

# 7 THINGS TO KNOW



This past November there was a gathering of LGBTQ+ Presbyterians at the national offices in Louisville, KY. During that gathering information from a survey of largely queer Presbyterians was disseminated for discussion. This survey was meant, in part, to help the church better know the experience queer people have had and the hopes carried for who the church can be. The survey information was summed up in seven things queer people want the church to know.

- **Inclusion is more than acceptance; it's belonging**
  - Belonging is at the core of the Christian faith. We confess that in life and in death we belong to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, and through him to one another, the Church, the Body of Christ.
- **Our safety depends on your courage**
  - Too often LGBTQ+ folks have experienced a lack of safety in church and society. For queer folks to feel safe it takes the courage of everyone to stand up for us. In this case silence is not safe.
- **We long for connection and community across regions and generations**
  - As with all people, queer people long for connection with the wider whole of the church.
- **Policy is not the same as practice**
  - Policies are important for the ways they provide structure and accountability in an institution or community, but a policy is only as good as the practices of individuals and groups that have them. A pride flag is only a sign of affirmation if people's behavior matches it.
- **Queer leadership is already here; support and amplify it**
  - There are queer leaders in our congregation and presbytery, how we support their voices matter.
- **A faithful church speaks aloud**
  - "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." Christianity is not a faith of silence but proclamation. We are called to use our voices to share our faith and to advocate for our neighbors who are marginalized or in need.
- **Joy, resilience and faith are thriving; nurture them**
  - Queer people, especially queer Christians are full of joy and faith, despite so much fear and exclusion. How we nurture faith and joy matters, that we nurture them at all matters.

Each of these points speaks to deep realities in the life of the church and in the life of queer people. They encourage and challenge the church to be a community that cares for the whole person and not just surface level appearances.

As a queer person I believe these seven points are applicable not only in regards to LGBTQ+ people in the church, but everyone. How are these seven points inviting you to better affirm and celebrate LGBTQ+ people in the church? How do you see these seven points teaching you about how to better affirm and celebrate all people in the church, regardless of the beautiful differences we hold? These seven things help point us towards a way of being church where people can experience the abundant life Jesus offers.

*I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.— John 10:10b (CEB)*

God's Peace,  
Pastor Brian

## COFFEE, CLASSES, AND CONVERSATION

February 1, 2026  
~BPC Historical Artifacts

February 8, 2026  
~ Rivers of Hope

February 15 2026  
~ Clearwater  
Forest Camp

February 22, 2026  
~ A Whole Life  
with Pastor Brian





**Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization committed to building stronger families and communities by helping to reduce food insecurity. They put together and distribute shelf stable meal kits which are free to anyone in need, no questions asked. The kits are designed to make a meal for a family of 4. They are available for pick up at Buffalo Books and Coffee, the Buffalo Community Center, Buffalo United Methodist Church, and Buffalo Presbyterian Church.

At BPC the kits are housed in the hutch near the bathrooms, you are free to take one if you or someone you know could use a meal. If you have extra brown paper grocery bags, Neighbors Helping Neighbors is always in need of more, you can leave them in the bin under the hutch.



Thank you, BPC, for allowing me to share a bit with you about loving our immigrant neighbors and telling you of the goodness of God's presence already at work in our community.

## THANK YOU SO MUCH

This has been a difficult and frightening month for our neighbors. One of my hero's, Mother Teresa, often said something like, "Do small things with great love and God will make it big." That is just what is happening. Every month your donations of soap, dish and laundry detergents, shampoos, toothpaste, etc is reaching more and more people; more than 40 households in February! These gifts of personal care say, "You matter and we love you!" That dose of kindness and dignity is BIG! Thank you BPC for loving your neighbor. Patti



**Ash Wednesday**  
**Wednesday, February 18**  
**6:30 pm**



*Soup Suppers*  
*Wednesdays*  
*February 25–*  
*March 25*  
*6:00 pm*



# FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

C	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Reader	Sound Board	Ushers
2/1/2026	Worship & Music & Personnel Committees	Kellie Johnson/ Elaine Thole	Larry Janski	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson/ Kevin Spike
2/8/2026	People of Faith & Women of Faith Bible Studies	Larry Janski/ Kathy Quady	Theresa Bevilacqua	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson/ Kevin Spike
2/15/2026	Crafty Ladies	Charlie Wilkens/ Larry Janski	Barb Janski	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson/ Kevin Spike
2/18/2026	ASH Wednesday Service				
2/22/2026	Faith Formation & Fellowship Committees	Elaine Thole/ Kellie Johnson	Lisa Ellwoods	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson/ Kevin Spike
3/1/2026	Racial Justice Reading Group	Larry Janski/ Elaine Thole	Mary Markve-Patch	Eric Ellwoods	Kathy Quady/ Kevin Spike

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Organ Recital

featuring Ralph Johansen

Sunday, February 22

1:30 pm

Refreshments to follow





# February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>01</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE W/ COMMUNION	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b> 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST	<b>04</b> 11AM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING 7PM ADULT CHOIR	<b>05</b> 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>8</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP:	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b> 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30 PROJECT REGENERATION	<b>11</b> 7PM ADULT CHOIR	<b>12</b> 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP	<b>16</b> DEACONS 5PM	<b>17</b> 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30PM SESSION MEETING	<b>18</b> 7:30: ADULT CHOIR ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 6:30PM	<b>19</b> 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30AM WORSHIP 1:30 ORGAN RECITAL - RALPH JOHANSEN	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST	<b>25</b> SOUP SUPPER 6PM 7:30 ADULT CHOIR	<b>26</b> 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

# SESSION SUMMARY

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 20 STATED SESSION MEETING AND THE JANUARY 25 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



To contribute to our mission  
and ministry online, please  
scan the QR code

### **Project Regeneration begins on February 10**

The Session agreed to begin the Presbyterian Foundation's Project Regeneration program on February 10. The initial meeting will involve the Session and Deacons along with Pastor Entz and Church Treasurer Mandy Harkess. The facilitator for the program is Pastor Kyle Nolan, the foundation's Upper Midwest Ministry Relations officer.

During the first several weeks of the program the group will be reading a book, probably *The Sailboat Church* by Joan Gray. The foundation will also receive the church's financial information over the past several years and the demographics of the congregation. Also included will be information gathered last summer when we worked with Pastor Anna Kendig Flores during Entz' sabbatical. The data and the book will be the focus of a discussion among the group this spring. The Session is planning a Coffee, Classes and Conversation update on the process in early March

### **Budget increase presented at annual meeting**

With the resignation of Church Administrative Assistant Christy Wood in January, the Session approved a pay increase for a new hire filling that job. The congregation was informed at the annual meeting that it could have up to an \$8,000 impact on this year's budget. The actual budget increase will depend on the new hire's experience and background, and how soon the person starts in the position. Kathy Quady is volunteering to cover the job in the interim.

### **Session ~ Meets Monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30pm**

Theresa Bevilacqua ~ Finance Committee  
Cindy Doth ~ Fellowship Committee  
Larry Janski ~ Personnel Committee  
Ashton Olsen ~ Communications Committee  
Ralph Johansen ~ Worship & Music Committee  
Chuck Klaassen ~ Building & Grounds Committee  
Linda Shebiel ~ Missions Committee  
Mike Quady ~ Faith Formation Committee / Clerk of Session  
Pastor Brian Entz ~ Moderator  
Mandy Harkess ~ Treasurer

### **Board of Deacons ~ Meets Monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 5pm**

Diane Ellis	Joan Lowe ~ Treasurer
Kellie Johnson	Lavina Pattee
Michele Lawlor	Kathy Quady





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.

## How can we pray for you?



Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

We hope you enjoy our monthly newsletter, Good News.

For comments and suggestions, please contact the BPC office at [office@buffalopresbyterian.org](mailto:office@buffalopresbyterian.org)

### Buffalo Presbyterian Church



507 Calder Ave NE  
Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-2773

Email: [office@buffalopresbyterian.org](mailto:office@buffalopresbyterian.org)  
[www.buffalopresbyterian.org](http://www.buffalopresbyterian.org)