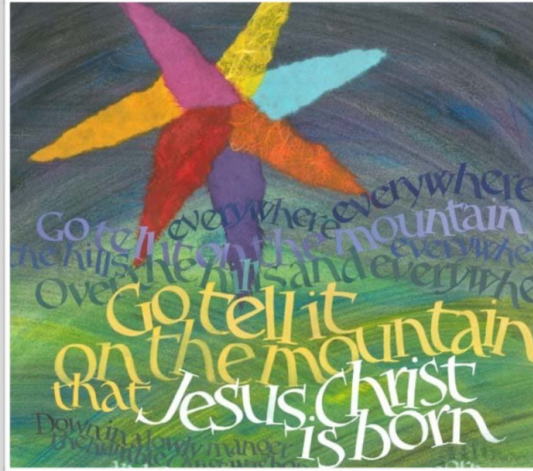




A SPIRITUAL CHRISTMAS



SUNDAY, DEC 17
9:30 am
BUFFALO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Hear the Christmas story told through such favorites as: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*, *Children Go Where I Send Thee*, *Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child*, and *Mary Had a Baby*.



Join us for Advent	
December 3	9:30am Worship with Communion
December 10	9:30am Worship
December 17	9:30am A Spiritual Christmas Choral Cantata
December 24	9:30am Worship 4:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

Classes, Coffee, and Conversations

December 3
Presbyterian Disaster Hygiene Kits

December 10
Pastor Brian

December 17
Coffee & Snacks

December 24
Coffee & Snacks

December 31
Coffee & Snacks



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*We hope you enjoy our monthly newsletter, **The New Times**.
For comments and suggestions, please contact the BPC Office*



This time of year could be called a season of generosity in our culture. We see a lot of extra requests for support and help, whether from nonprofits and social service agencies or from individuals and families. Winter is settling in and so people need coats and hats and help with energy costs. It's the holiday season and so we want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to eat and be merry with friends, family, and neighbors alike.

As a church we've been helping to meet those needs through adopt-a-family, gift cards for Rivers of Hope to give to their clients, as well as the craft sale which raised around \$8,000 to be distributed to missions. We also raised over \$800 to provide hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which we'll pack after worship on Sunday Dec. 3rd.

Generosity is an inherent part of the Christian faith, you could say it is a posture of the Christian life. We see generosity throughout scripture, demonstrated especially from God towards people. God gives to people in need throughout the Bible, ultimately giving God's very self in Jesus, that we might be freed from bondage to sin and death and united to God forever. We see generosity on the part of the woman who pours the whole jar of costly oil on Jesus' feet, anointing Jesus before his death. We see generosity from Zacchaeus when he gives back far more than he had stolen from people. The call to generosity is made by John the Baptist who commands that whoever has two loaves of bread or two cloaks should give the extra to a person without one.

There are, outside of scripture, in Christian history and tradition countless stories of generosity on behalf of saints, pastors, and everyday faithful. St. Nicholas of Myra was said to have secretly given money to a poor father and his daughters, so that they didn't have to enter the sex trade in order to survive. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest, gave his life in the place of Jewish man in a Nazi concentration camp so that his family would not lose their father. To live the Christian life is to live a generous one.

Generosity as a posture and value of the Christian life is not just one for the holiday season and the end of the calendar year, but one for everyday, for all year long. I am convinced that generosity is a value and posture of this congregation. Year after year, day after day, each and every one of you gives from what you have, for the sake of this congregation's mission and ministry, and for the sake of those in our community and world in need. You live out generosity, not just with money, but with food, with time, with energy, with laughter, and with prayer. It is my true pleasure and honor to serve in the midst of such generous and faithful people. I am grateful for your generosity and I know many people and organizations in and around our community who are grateful for it too!

I pray that this Advent and Christmas season is a blessing for each of you and that you might experience the generosity and abundance of God's grace and love.

In Christ,
Pastor Brian





ANNUAL CRAFT & BAKE SALE

Thank you to all those that helped with another successful Craft and Bake Sale! We have collected \$8,000.33 so far to donate to other Missions in the area!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Please see the link below for the shopping list for Adopt A Family this year. Also attach a gift receipt especially with any clothing. We need to have all the items brought to the church by noon on Sunday, December 3rd. The items can be dropped off in the bin in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AAAA72AA3FDCE9-46309420-adopt>

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE HYGIENE KITS

The Faith Formation Committee is putting together Hygiene Kits for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. We will be assembling kits during CCC time on Dec 3rd and hope you can join us. Thank you for all those that have donated! We have received \$908!!!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering are sharing our love with the leaders of the church-past, present, and future. 50% of this Offering makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The other 50% help assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. This offering will be collected at our Christmas Eve Service, December 24th. If you would like to donate with a credit card online, please go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

Trying to find a unique gift for someone? Give a gift and change a life by getting something from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. We have several catalogs in the Narthex and you are also able to purchase these online at presbyteriangifts.org.

From Our Treasurer

2024 Pledge Update:

2024 Pledge Total (26 giving units): \$146,705.50

2024 Budget: \$180,000

DIFFERENCE: \$33,294.50

2023 Pledge Total (29 giving units) - \$142,558.50

2023 Budget: \$178,270

DIFFERENCE: \$35,711.50

We are \$2500 closer than we were last year between pledges and budget

2023 Budget Update

Spent to Date: \$164,898

Received to Date: \$156,835

Shortfall of \$8,063

What caused the shortfall:

We had a few unplanned but necessary expenses this year. \$2000 was spent to install CO2 detectors and another \$2700 was spent to replace both Pastor Brian and Christy's computers. The remaining \$3000 is part of the discrepancy between our budget and our anticipated giving.

We started 2023 with a possible shortfall of \$33,000. Because of your generosity and the sessions' careful spending we have cut that by 75% and the year isn't over yet.

December 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30a Worship with Communion 10:30a Coffee & Conversations—Presbyterian Disaster Hygiene Kits	6:30p Prayer Shawl Group 7:00p AA Meeting 6:30p Faith Formation Committee Meeting	9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	6:00p Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00p Adult Choir	7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group 7:00p Communications Committee Meeting		10:00a Generations of Sweetness Baking
10 BPC's 148TH BIRTHDAY	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30a Worship 10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations—Generations of Sweetness Bake Off	5:00p Fellowship Committee Meeting 6:30p PEO 7:00p AA Meeting	9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 5:00p Missions Committee Meeting 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting	7:00p Adult Choir	7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30a Worship: A Spiritual Christmas Choral Cantata 10:30a Coffee & Snacks	4:30p Deacons Meeting 7:00p AA Meeting	9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 6:30p Session	7:00p Adult Choir	7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group		
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29	30
9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee & Snacks 4:30p Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Communion	7:00p AA Meeting	9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	7:00p Adult Choir	7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group		
31 NEW YEARS EVE						
9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee & Snacks						

SPOT

Spiritual
Practices of
Today

Saturday
December 2
10:00 am



ADVENT DEVOTIONS AND PRACTICES

Spiritual Practices Of Today is a monthly Faith Formation offering that focuses on various spiritual practices we can use to grow deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Our last Spiritual Practices of Today of 2023 will be on Saturday Dec. 2nd at 10am. We'll focus on some common Advent spiritual practices that can be done individually or as a household/group. Join us as we begin preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth!

Please watch for more information about the upcoming January SPOT!

BPC Member Directory

The Member Directory is getting close to being finished! Soon we will have all have the updated and accurate information for everyone! Watch for more details in the upcoming weeks.

MERRY
Christmas

SERVICE FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

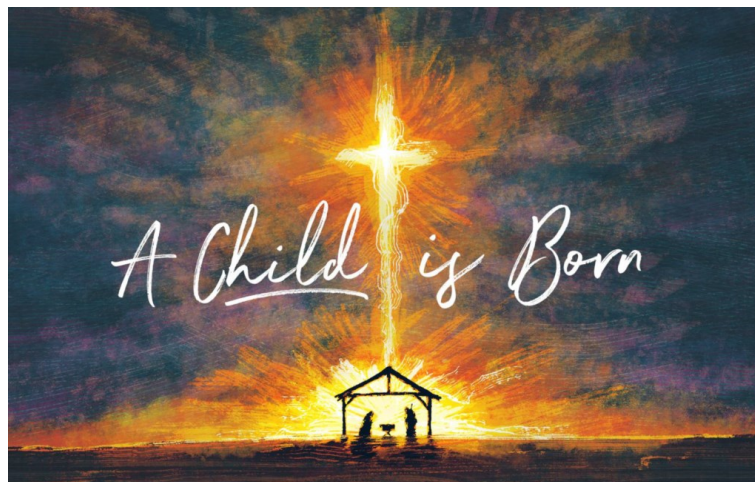
14 JANUARY 2024
4:00 PM



December Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers
12/3	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Barb Janski	Chuck Klaassen	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
12/10	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Dave & Jean Johnson	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Theresa Bevilacqua	Mike Quady	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
12/17	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Mike Quady/ Al DeBellis	Lisa Ellwoods	Eric Ellwoods	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
12/24 9:30am	Diane Ellis	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Mary Markve- Patch	Chuck Klaassen	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
12/24 4:30pm	NA	NA				
12/31	Diane Ellis	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Steve Grittman	Mike Quady	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
1/7	Becky & Don Eddy	Dave & Jean Johnson	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Ashton Olsen	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike

We are looking for volunteers for the **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** at 4:30pm. Please let Christy know if you are interested and able to help! Thank you!



Session Summary

Highlights of the November Meetings

Session approves Ashton Olsen to be an “Inquirer” in the ordination process

At a special Session meeting on November 19 Elders interviewed Ashton Olson in order to fill out the form: “Session Evaluation and Recommendation Regarding Enrollment as an Inquirer.” The Session discussed Olsen’s faith journey and questions specific to the form for about an hour. Olsen was excused from the meeting while the Session considered whether they would support Olsen becoming an inquirer in the church’s ordination process. It’s the first step an individual takes as they explore whether they might be called to the ordained ministry. The Session unanimously approved Ash’s beginning the process. Next their application will be considered by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area’s Committee on the Preparation for Ministry. Ash is currently taking classes at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton. The Session will also be appointing an Elder as a liaison in Ash’s ordination process. Please be in prayer for Ash as they discern where their faith journey will take them.

Church is seeking new insurer

The Session moved to allow the Finance Committee to make a decision on an insurance policy before the end of the year. Elders requested that the Finance Committee seek a quote from a local insurance company and that the church update their valuation amounts (if necessary) as quickly as possible. Church treasurer Mandy Harkess is working with several brokers and insurance companies to get a favorable rate.

Special Congregational Meeting set for December 3

The PC(USA) Book of Order states that the church’s congregation must annually review the adequacy of the staff’s compensation, approve the minister’s term of call, and have the opportunity to comment on the church’s annual (2024) budget. This year’s meeting will be Sunday, December 3, at 10:30 am following worship. Based on actions at the meeting the Session will be able to approve a final budget in December.



Session

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

Theresa Bevilacqua	Finance Committee
Don Eddy	Building & Grounds Committee
Jill Gatzke	Missions Committee
Larry Janski	Communications Committee
Ralph Johansen	Worship & Music Committee
Chuck Klaassen	Fellowship Committee
Mary Markve-Patch	Faith Formation Committee
Kathy Quady	Personnel Committee
Mike Quady	Clerk of Session
Pastor Brian Entz	Moderator

Board of Deacons

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

Diane Ellis*	Deacon Treasurer*
Barb Janski*	
Liz Klaassen	
Michele Lawlor	
Joan Lowe	

*Please note that our Church Treasurer is Mandy Harkess.

To give online, please scan the QR code.





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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