

THE NEW TIMES

February 2023



BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NEW TIMES



Classes, Coffee, and Conversations

February 5

TGIF

February 12

Accessibility Audit

Follow up

February 19

Conversations to go

February 26

Mental Health



Lenten Soup Suppers

More information on page 2

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

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The late Eugene H. Peterson is perhaps best known for his paraphrase of the Bible titled 'The Message'. While 'The Message' has provided me with some thought provoking and soul stirring reflections over the years lately I've been reading and reflecting on letters written by Eugene to his son Eric, also a Presbyterian pastor. These letters center around the life of the pastor, a vocation Eugene and Eric share (and one also shared by Drew, Eric's son and Eugene's grandson). One letter struck me in particular as Eugene reflected on the formation of his life and the integration of the various parts of life into a whole.

In his reflection Eugene reminded me of the long term, even life long, nature of formation, both formation as a Christian and as a human person. It's easy to forget (at least it can be for me) that we are continually being formed as people and as disciples of Jesus. There is no graduation date or ceremony of completion in this thing we call life, at least not on this side of eternity.

Our life, and with it our sanctification, regularly offers opportunities (new and familiar) to be whole and holy people. Each time, each moment shaping who we are and how we live. Our task then is to regularly recognize and accept the invitation to continued self formation. How is the Holy Spirit working in our life in this moment to shape us ever more into the image of Christ?

This is a question we can never stop asking ourselves as we continue this life of discipleship. No part of life is too small or inconsequential to be used by God in our formation and sanctification. An interaction with the checkout clerk at the store, the chopping of vegetables as we make dinner, or the way we greet a loved one as they come through the door. Each of these situations is an opportunity for God to shape us into more whole and holy people.

May we all be mindful of the ways the Spirit is using right here and right now to shape us and may we accept the life long invitation to be formed by God into the image of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Brian

*But now, Lord, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter.
All of us are the work of your hand.*

-Isaiah 64:8

1. Letters to a Young Pastor: Timothy Conversations Between Father and Son, by Eric Peterson and Eugene Peterson

Lenten Soup Suppers

Join us on Wednesdays in March from 6-7:30pm as we observe the season of Lent together with our Soup Suppers. We'll have soup for supper and then gather for an intergenerational time focusing on spiritual practices. To keep with the Lenten theme of simplicity and fasting we are asking for people to bring soup to share, the Fellowship Committee will provide all other food and beverages. **A sign up sheet for both soup and clean up volunteers will be outside the office on Feb. 12th.** We hope you'll join us as we gather for food, fellowship, and spiritual practice during Lent!



On January 15, the Mission Committee presented their program at CCC. It was an overview of what BPC has been accomplishing in the area of Hunger Action.

“As disciples of a loving God who inspires us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God, we commit to faithful action to end hunger and address its root causes.”

–Hunger Action Congregation covenant. BPC is a Covenant Church in this area.

Ending Hunger and Its Causes — Six Areas:

Hunger Alleviation: providing and/or sharing food in a dignified way with an eye to long-term structural solutions

Development Assistance: addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty through equitable and sustainable development

Hunger Education: learning about systemic causes of hunger, leading towards faithful action that is informed and guided by directly affected people and partner groups

Lifestyle Integrity: adopting sustainable personal and corporate lifestyles to restore justice and protect all of God’s creation

Corporate and Public Policy Witness: advocating and campaigning for changes in policies and practices to end hunger and its causes, promote self-development, and care for creation

Worship: incorporating prayer, education, and preaching about ending hunger and its causes into worship

What have we done and what are we doing?

Thanks to Mike Quady for presenting the following visual for us illustrating areas that we have accomplished for Hunger Action. Earth Care and Matthew 25 Congregation are other areas we may consider but have already done some work in these areas. H=Hunger E=Earth 25=Matt. 25

Program	H	E	25
Community garden Community breakfast	X	X	
Meals on Wheels Mission trips	x		x
Buffalo Food Shelf Rental Assistance	x		X
Red Cross blood drive			X

February 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1
7:00p Adult Choir

2
7:30a Women of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice
Reading Group
7:00p Communications
Committee Meeting

3
8:00a
LifeLine
Screening

4

5
9:30a Worship with
Communion
10:30a CCC: TGIF

6
6:30p Prayer Shawl
7:00p AA Meeting

7
9:00a Crafty Ladies
6:00p Building & Grounds
Committee Meeting
6:00p Finance Committee
Meeting
7:00p Faith Formation
Committee Meeting

8
6:00p Worship & Music
Committee Meeting
7:00p Adult Choir

9
7:30a Women of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice
Reading Group

10

11
6:00p Mystery Dinner

12
9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Accessibility
Audit Follow Up

13
5:00p Fellowship
Committee Meeting
6:30p PEO
7:00p AA Meeting

14
9:00a Crafty Ladies
7:30p Missions Committee
Meeting

15
7:00p Adult Choir

16
7:30a Women of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice
Reading Group

17

18

19
9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Conversations to go

20
4:00p Deacons
Meeting
6:30p Buffalo Art
Guild
7:00p AA Meeting

21
9:00a Crafty Ladies
6:30p Session

22 Ash Wednesday
6:30p Worship

23
7:30a Women of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice
Reading Group
7:00p SPOT: Fasting

24

25

26
9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Mental
Health

27
5:00p Fellowship
Committee Meeting
7:00p AA Meeting

28
9:00a Crafty Ladies

Upcoming Events



SPOT

Fasting
Thursday, February 23
7:00pm on Zoom

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.

Lent is the time before Easter when the faithful will fast in remembrance of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made. As we consider our own personal preparation for Lent, join us for our February SPOT event to learn about fasting. Mary will lead us on February 23, at 7 pm in a discussion about how to do this and what we can learn about our faith. Please join by Zoom or call in if needed.

SAVE THE DATE: Join us for SPOT on Saturday March 18th at 10am as we explore Stewardship as spiritual practice. Stewardship is normally associated with pledging and giving money to the church, but the implications for our spiritual lives are so much broader and deeper. We hope to see you at the church as we explore this practice together!

Fundraisers

Buffalo Strong Fundraiser: February 9th from 10am to 10pm at Buffalo Culvers

12th Annual Mason's Food Shelf Matching Fund Drive

Once again, the Nelson Masonic Lodge #135 will be matching all monetary donations made to the Buffalo Food Shelf through the end of February, up to \$10,000. Donations can be dropped off at the Old National Bank or mailed to *Old National Bank, Attn: Masons Food Shelf Drive, 910 Commercial Drive, Buffalo, MN 55313*. Make your check payable to **Masonic Lodge 135** and write "Buffalo Food Shelf" in the memo line to ensure it is deposited to the correct account. Food insecurity remains high in our area and this is a marvelous way to make our giving stretch and ensure continued assistance to those in need. No donation is too small. Every dollar counts! Any questions please contact Joan Lowe, joanhlowe@msn.com.

BHS Drumline Fundraiser

The Buffalo High School Drumline is collecting new and gently used adult and children's shoes to help raise funds to offset costs for their upcoming 2023 season.

The drumline is open to children in grades 8-12 and last year the team took 1st place at all of their competitions. They hope to make this year's performance even better and thank you in advance for your support.

February Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers	Pray & Play
2/5	Diane Ellis	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Mary Markve- Patch	Mike Quady	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	NA
2/12	Diane Ellis	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Steve Grittman	Eric Ellwoods	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	Victoria Vanderheiden
2/19	Becky & Don Eddy	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Eric Ellwoods	Chuck Klaassen	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	Cindy Doth
2/26	Becky & Don Eddy	Larry & Lavina Pattee	Mike Quady/ Al DeBellis	Ashton Olsen	Mike Quady	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	Michele Lawlor
3/5	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Barb Janski	Eric Ellwoods	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike	Mandy Harkess

News from Building & Grounds

REVISED 2023 CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Starting in February, we will have an every-other-week cleaning schedule. In the intervening week, the scheduled Team will just collect the trash and the recyclables. If you are a member of a group which uses the facilities (e.g., Fellowship Hall, The Heritage Room, the kitchen, etc.) please clean up after yourselves. Clean tabletops, sweep/mop the floors as needed, return chairs and tables to their correct locations, etc.

I have posted a copy of the first six months of 2023 Cleaning Schedule on the Bulletin Board. If you have any questions, please be certain to see me. Thank you for your much-needed assistance.

Don Eddy, Chair, BPC Buildings and Grounds Committee

NEW CO DETECTORS INSTALLED

Three new CO Detectors have been installed in our building. The locations of these detectors are:

- In the Large Mechanical Room right outside the Kitchen entrance, attached to the wall just inside the door on the right next to the light switch
- In the Kitchen on the wall to the left of the entrance to Fellowship Hall
- In the Small Mechanical Room across the hall from the Nursery mounted on the rear wall facing the door.

The instructions will be posted above each Detector the first week in February. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Session Summary

Highlights of the January 17 Stated Meeting and
January 29 Annual Congregational Meeting

Congregation will review Accessibility Audit on February 12

A task force has completed an accessibility audit for Buffalo Presbyterian Church and will begin to review its findings with the congregation. The audit was introduced briefly at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Members and friends will be able to take a closer look at the audit on Sunday, February 12, during CCC time after worship. In addition to recommendations for the building and facility, the audit will include ways that our culture, policies, training, and education can be more inviting. Some of the ideas are “quick fixes” while others will require longer term solutions. If you’d like to see the audit, contact Pastor Brian or Christy.

Church’s active membership drops to 94

With the deaths of members Rainer Pensky and Sharon Bishop in 2022 the active member roll stands at 94. No one joined our church in 2022. The average Sunday worship attendance last year was 40. The highest attended Sunday was Easter with 86. The second best-attended was the Fall Choir Cantata worship with 68. The Christmas Eve service had 54 attendees. You can look for more interesting facts and information about our accomplishments in the 2022 Annual Report.

Bylaws changes approved

At the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 29 members approved long-overdue changes in the bylaws. Session membership will be reduced from nine to eight Elders. The nominating committee will shrink from seven to five people. The quorum for a congregational meeting will be 20 instead of 25. These changes were recommended by Session due to smaller membership numbers. A new section was added to the bylaws allowing for members to attend meetings remotely via Zoom or similar technologies.



Session

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

Theresa Bevilacqua
Mary Coleman
Cindy Doth
Don Eddy
Jill Gatzke
Chuck Klaassen
Mary Markve-Patch
Ralph Johansen
Kathy Quady
Mike Quady
Pastor Brian Entz

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

Board of Deacons

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

Diane Ellis*
Barb Janski*
Liz Klaassen
Louise Markve
Elaine Thole
George Thole

Deacon Treasurer*

*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



507 County Road 134
Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763-682-2773

Email: office@buffalopresbyterian.org
www.buffalopresbyterian.org