THE NEW TIMES

November 2022







Christmas Banner

Again this year we will be assembling a Christmas banner which will be put together with squares created by members of the congregation.

The squares will be available on Sunday, November 6th. They will be on the high table in the narthex along with possible suggestions for ideas.

Please use the white, green, or red squares that are provided as they are cut to the correct size; making it easier to put them together.

You will need to bring your finished square back to church by Wednesday, November 23rd so it can be sewn and ready to hang on November 27th.



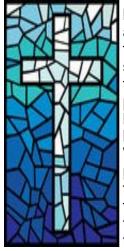
Inside this issue:

Missions	3
Calendar	4
Volunteers	6
Session	7

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

For comments and suggestions, please contact the BPC Office

Pastor's Page



Over the past couple years it has become a tradition for a friend and I to go apple picking in the fall. After which we go to our respective homes and bake with the fresh apples. Full of freshly picked food, Autumn is well known for being the season of last harvests before winter. Whether it's corn from the field. pumpkins from the vine, apples from trees, or the last of the kale from the garden, our stores, pantries, and tables are evidence of the bounty of God's good creation and the hard work and inge-

nuity of human hands. Because of this bounty fall has become a season of gratitude and feasting, exemplified by the Thanksgiving holiday.

As Christians we are called not only to harvest and celebrate the fruits of vine and tree, but also the fruits of the Spirit. In his letter to the Galatians Paul recalls these fruit for us:

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. -Galatians 5:22-23

Harvesting the fruits of the Spirit is not limited to any one season of the year or life, but is a harvest for any and all seasons, indeed a harvest for every day.

The fruits of the Spirit have often been used as a way of measuring the truth and faithfulness of a theology or teaching in the life of a person or church. In his book 'The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage' Prof. Mark Achtemier talks about how it was the fruit of the Spirit or rather their absence in the lives of people that helped him come to a position where he can affirm LGBTQ+ people fully in the life of the church. The LGBTQ+ individu-

als Mark knew were following all the teachings of their churches, including teachings that said all LGBTQ+ individuals should live lives of lifelong celibacy. He observed that despite a genuine relationship with Christ and faithfully living the teachings and theology they had been given these LGBTQ+ individuals lives only gave evidence of the fruits of the Spirit once they came to the knowledge that their lives and relationships are just as blessed and beloved in the eyes of God as those of heterosexual people.

Mark's observations invite us to view faithfulness not by how much theology we know or by the rules we follow, but by fruits of the Spirit evidenced in our lives and the lives of others. What this does for us is it gives us a way to view our lives, not as something we build on our own. but as a cooperative effort between God and us. That as we grow in our faith and relationship with Christ a harvest of the fruits of the Spirit will grow in us. What this does not do for us is make a new tool for creating barriers between people, saying some are in and some are out. The fruit of the Spirit are not to become a new litmus test for faithfulness of people, as rule following and Biblical/theological knowledge has become in too many instances. Rather Mark shows us how the fruit can reveal the ways in which our theology and practices enable (or don't) us to live into the fullness of life and faith God wills for us.

The fruits of the Spirit are a harvest of God's activity in our lives and our cooperation with God. May we all learn to till the soil of our souls, abandoning those practices and theologies that hold back the harvest. May we learn to cultivate in ourselves and others the faith, hope, and love which increase in us the bounty of God's love.

God's Blessings, Pastor Brian





JUST EATING - The "Just Eating" booklet was available for the October 9 CCC and several were given out. We may use it again, so if you took one, you can keep it for out next program. If you do NOT want the book, please return it to the Mission Table by Fellowship Hall.

RIVERS OF HOPE – Mission Statement - "Rivers of Hope is a domestic violence center serving Wright & Sherburne Counties. Our mission is to provide a community coordinated response to end family violence. We live out this mission by offering advocacy services to youth and adults. In addition, we educate community members about the impact domestic violence has and the work we do, and partnering with other service providers to ensure that the needs of victim/survivors are being met." See information in this Newsletter regarding gift cards for this organization. It is one of the Mission programs we support.

CRAFTY LADIES CRAFT AND BAKE SALE – NOVEMBER 5 - 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. Please be sure to attend this great sale. There are even more wonderful crafts this year and, of course, delicious baked goods. If you want to help us on November 5, you all are welcome to do so. We can need baked goods. Please bring them to the kitchen on Friday, November 4, because we have to get them priced and placed. We can always use help on Saturday as well.

In 2021, we were blessed with receiving \$7,000.00 from the sale, and we are striving to receive at least that much this year! This sale supports the following mission programs:

Buffalo Ministerial Association Buffalo Food Shelf Love INC Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Presbytery Mission PCUSA/PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) Rivers of Hope Wrapped in Love

Please join us this year on November 5 and bring friends, family, and neighbors, and you can get your Christmas shopping done early! Don't forget...Santa will be here this year. Santa will have his own special room – currently known as the "Children's Room."



Buffalo Presbyterian will be participating in the annual Buffalo Community Thanksgiving Service. It will take place on Wednesday, Nov 23 at Zion Lutheran beginning at 7:30 pm. The service will be lead by the Buffalo Ministerium and include a community handbell choir, and a community choir. Everyone is encouraged to attend. BPC choir members will be participating in the service. Anyone interested should contact Mike Agre.

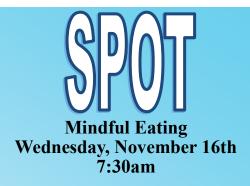
Anyone interested in being an usher for this service, please sign up in the narthex.

November 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
] 9:00a Crafty Ladies 6:00p Building & Grounds Committee Meeting	2 7:00p Adult Choir	3 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group 7:00p Communications Committee Meeting	4	5 9:00a Craft & Bake Sale
6 Daylight Saving 9:30a Worship with Communion 10:30a CCC: Dying Well– Digital	7 6:30p Prayer Shawl Group 7:00p AA Meeting	8 Election Day 9:00a Crafty Ladies 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting 7:30p Missions Committee Meeting	9 7:00p Adult Choir	10 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	11	12
13 9:30a Worship 10:30a CCC: Dying Well- Spiritual	14 4:00p Deacons Meeting 5:30p Fellowship Committee Meeting 6:30p PEO 7:00p AA Meeting	15 9:00a Crafty Ladies 6:30p Session Meeting	16 7:30a SPOT: Mindful Eating 7:00p Adult Choir	17 7:30a Women of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group 7:00p Faith Formation Committee Meeting	18	19
20 9:30a Worship	21 6:30p Buffalo Art Guild 7:00p AA Meeting	22 9:00a Crafty Ladies	23 7:00p Adult Choir	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 9:30a Worship 10:30a Deck the Halls	28 5:30p Fellowship Committee Meeting 7:00p AA Meeting	29 9:00a Crafty Ladies	30 7:00p Adult Choir			

Upcoming Events





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

Eating is something we do everyday, but oftentimes we do it quickly, or in front of the TV, while on our phones, or in the car. What would it look like to be more aware of what we are eating, how we are eating and who provided what we eat? Join us on Wednesday November 16th at 7:30 am on Zoom for SPOT (Spiritual Practices Of Today), as we explore the practice of mindful eating. Please have some food and beverage available for this practice. We will send out the Zoom link via email on Tuesday. If you don't have email and would like to join by calling in please contact Christy on Tuesday to get the call in information.

SAVE THE DATE: Join us at 10am on Saturday December 10th at the church as we explore the practice of Lectio Divina (Divine Reading). Lectio Divina is a contemplative and prayerful way of reading the Bible that can be done in groups or individually. We will have Bibles for those who don't bring their own.

Support Local Non-Profits



Holiday Program Gift Card Drive: We will be collecting gift cards to send to Rivers of Hope. They are looking for Target, Walmart, grocery store, and gas station gift cards. These cards will be distributed to families and youth experiencing relationship violence in our community. Please drop the gift cards in the drop box in the office door by November 20th.

Holiday Program Amazon Wishlist: If you aren't able to donate gift cards but would still like to support the program we have an Amazon wishlist for some of the household items we are hoping to donate and that can be found here: <u>https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/15ZG1FUYF4SMY</u>



Love Inc Gala

Saturday, November 5th from 1pm to 5pm located at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School. Come enjoy appetizers and desserts catered by The Hanover River Inn and a silent auction. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the Love Inc office, the Love Inc Thrift Store, or at the door.



Rockin' 50s Gala

November 19th at 6pm located at the Classic Hall/ Pour L'Amour Event Center, 220 Poplar Ln, Annandale, MN. Tickets are \$45 and this will go towards a building in Buffalo for a Parenting with

Grace- Supervised Visitation & Parent Education Center. The services they provide are supervised visitation, safe exchanges, parent education, seminars, and support groups. For more information, please see this website: www.parentingwithgrace.org

November Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers	Pray & Play
11/6	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Lois Lindstrom/	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Larry Janski	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	Cindy Doth
11/13	Marlene Aldrich/ Mary Coleman	Larry & Lavina Pattee	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Mary Markve- Patch	Chuck Klaassen	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	Victoria Vanderheiden
11/20	Vanderheiden Family	Dave & Jean Johnson	Mike Quady/ Al DeBellis	NA	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	NA
11/27	Diane Ellis	Marlene Aldrich/Linda Shebiel	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Ashton Olsen	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	Cindy Doth
12/4	Becky & Don Eddy	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Eric Ellwoods/ Dave Johnson	Eric Ellwoods	Chuck Klaassen	,	Victoria Vanderheiden

CLASSES, COFFEE, AND CONVERSATIONS

- NOVEMBER $6 \sim$ Dying well: Digital
- NOVEMBER $13 \sim$ Dying Well: Spiritual
- NOVEMBER 20~ COFFEE, NO CLASS
- NOVEMBER $27 \sim \text{Deck the halls}$







Session Summary

Highlights of the October 18 Stated Meeting

Session discusses bylaws revision

Discussion on a long overdue revision of the church's bylaws took up much of October's meeting. The Session is considering reductions in the numbers of those serving on Session, the Board of Deacons, and the Nominating Committee. Plans are to add a new section allowing for digital meetings (i.e. Zoom) for the Session, Deacons and committees. The Session will discuss the draft further at the November meeting. Bylaws changes must be approved by the congregation and will likely be on the agenda at the annual meeting in January

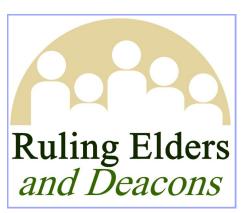
Building and Grounds committee lists plans for church improvements

The Building and Grounds Committee submitted a two-page list of recommended improvements to the Session. One improvement that's already been accomplished is the replacement of sanctuary lights. Other projects have been prioritized and will be completed as resources and funds become available.

Campfire fellowship event is successful

Forty-four people attended the Campfire event on Saturday, October 8. We roasted hot dogs, made s'mores and had a campfire sing-a-long. The next Fellowship event will be Deck the Halls on Sunday, November 27, after worship. We will also have a Chili Feed for lunch after the halls are decked that day.





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



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