

DECEMBER 2025

# BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# GOOD NEWS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Updates to the Coffee Time Schedule Accompanied With the Schedule from January through March
- Several Mission Opportunities
- Christmas Joy Offering & Special Offerings Made to the Presbytery so far in 2025
- *Merry Christmas!*



### 150th Anniversary Celebration Worship Service on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

Join us in celebrating serving the community for 150 years! This special service will be on December 7th at 9:30am.

BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHOIR  
PRESENTS



### The Christmas Story

Experience the beauty of the season as **The Buffalo Presbyterian Choir**, together with the **Northstar String Quartet**, presents a **The Christmas Story** celebrating the birth of Christ. Through a tapestry of word and song—including cherished favorites such as Silent Night, This Little Babe, and O Little Town of Bethlehem—the choir invites all to share in this presentation of hope, peace, and joy. Please invite your family and friends to attend this wonderful start to the Christmas week.

### The Christmas Story

Sunday, Dec 21  
9:30 am  
Buffalo Presbyterian  
Church

Featuring:  
Northstar String Quartet

# SEASON OF GRATITUDE



## Classes, Coffee, & Conversations

December 7, 2025  
~ 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration

December 14, 2025  
~ Pastor Brian

December 21, 2025  
~ Cantata

December 28, 2025  
~ Who Am I?  
Holiday Edition

We have entered a season of gratitude in our culture. It seems as if the time between Thanksgiving and the end of the year stirs up, even begs, for the recognition of thanks. It begins with our holiday of thankfulness and goes through the Christmas season during which gratitude is

(hopefully) expressed for gifts given and time spent together. Even businesses, non-profits, and other organizations express gratitude for their customers, donors, and volunteers as the calendar year draws to a close. Even grief that may be felt this time of year can draw out gratitude for the person who is no longer here or the opportunity that was and is no longer. In the grief we can experience gratitude for what has been and for who has been a part of our lives.

Gratitude can help reveal the reality of our interdependence, the reality that we need each other, we need creation and creation needs our (healthy) contributions to the ecosystems we are part of. None of us, as much as we may sometimes convince ourselves to the contrary, can make it alone. At some point someone was/will be caring for us, as babies or when we're sick. At some point we have/will have the opportunity to care for others, in infancy, illness, or old age. Just as our gratitude can help us realize our interdependence, so too does our experience of interdependence offer us the opportunity for gratitude. Gratitude that we are cared for and that we get to care for others.

Our interdependence also leads to the fact of our vulnerability. Regardless of any tough exterior (mental, emotional, spiritual, or physical) we project we cannot escape the reality of our vulnerability. Vulnerability to insult or injury. Vulnerability to loneliness and loss. We are soft creatures, we don't

have scales or shells to protect our bodies, and we have feelings that can be hurt, spirits that can be broken, and minds that will never have all the right answers. These truths reveal our vulnerability, which while a reality is not a weakness. Our vulnerability opens us up to the sharing of love, truth, and beauty, which adds such depth to our interdependence and then can stir up some of the deepest gratitude we might ever know.

I want you all to know just how grateful I am for you. For the ways you share what you have, including your vulnerability, with one another and with me. I am grateful that God has called us together to be church, to be family, for and with each other and our wider community. I pray you will find ways to practice gratitude in your lives. I pray you will lean into the reality of our interdependence. I pray that you won't avoid the vulnerability we all have in common, for it can be the genesis of so much goodness.

I leave you with the chorus of a song by Hezekiah Walker, may it be a reminder and a blessing to you this holiday season.

I need you, you need me  
We're all a part of God's body  
Stand with me, agree with me  
We're all a part of God's body  
It is His will that every need be supplied  
You are important to me, I need you to survive  
You are important to me, I need you to survive

-Pastor Brian

## A Season of Gratitude and Giving!

During the holiday season there are so many opportunities to give to those in our community and world who are in need of assistance. In this issue are some of the ways that BPC is supporting our neighbors.

## Year Round Giving Opportunities

### **Buffalo Food Shelf:**

Our shopping cart is always in the Narthex as a collection point for food donations to the Buffalo Food Shelf. Monetary donations can be made through the Food Shelf website. There are also volunteer opportunities for those willing and able to donate their time.  
<https://buffalofoodshelf.com/financial-support>

### **PC(USA) Alternative Giving Catalogue:**

The Presbyterian Alternative Giving Catalogue is available on the tall table by the main entrance. Published annually, this catalogue offers many ways that your gifts can support people and communities in need around the world.

# MISSIONS

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

**John 13:34**

## Adopt-A-Family

We have the family that we have adopted for the holidays! Items that are donated need to be turned in by December 7<sup>th</sup> at noon. The Crafty Ladies are donating one of the small Christmas trees to this family in need. Thanks to all that have donated!

## Community Meals in 2026

We are tentatively planning a Community Meal of chili and cornbread on Saturday, January 31, 2026 from 5pm to 6:30pm. Watch for sign-up sheets in December to be a part of this! Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus!

## Rivers of Hope Gift Card Drive



Please drop off your gift cards in the office drop box or to Christy by Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!



## Christmas Joy Special Offering

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we prepare the way for the leaders of our Church—past, present, and future.

- 50% of our gifts smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.
- 50% of your gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

### WAYS TO GIVE:

~Write a check out to BPC, comment Xmas Joy on the memo line

~Use a credit card at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)

~Text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999

IF WE DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

	OUR CONGREGATION 2024	OUR CONGREGATION 2025	NATIONALLY 2024	NATIONALLY 2025
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING	\$515.32	\$367.30	\$2,636,860	\$1,958,177
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING	\$676.13	\$298.34	\$6,521,210	\$4,842,682
PENTECOST OFFERING	\$234.03	\$165	\$786,246*	\$501,901*
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING	\$0	\$60	\$818,329*	\$501,901*
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,798
PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG	\$0	\$0	\$1,430,217	\$473,909

\*GIFTS TO THE PENTECOST AND PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERINGS DO NOT INCLUDE THE PERCENTAGES RETAINED BY CONGREGATIONS AND MID COUNCILS.





# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	01 6:30PM PRAYER SHAWL GROUP	02 9AM CRAFTY LADIES  9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST  6:30PM FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE MTG	03 7PM ADULT CHOIR	04 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH  10AM WOMEN OF FAITH  5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	05	06
07 9:30AM 150TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP SERVICE W/ COMMUNION  10:30AM CCC: 150 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION	08	09 9AM CRAFTY LADIES  9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST  5PM MISSIONS COMMITTEE MTG  6:30PM FINANCE COMMITTEE MTG	10 7PM ADULT CHOIR	11 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH  10AM WOMEN OF FAITH  5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	12	13
14 9:30AM WORSHIP CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  10:30AM CCC: PASTOR BRIAN	15 5PM DEACONS MTG	16 9AM CRAFTY LADIES  9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST  6:30PM SESSION MTG	17 7PM ADULT CHOIR	18 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH  10AM WOMEN OF FAITH  5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP  7:30PM COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MTG	19	20
21 9:30AM THE CHRISTMAS STORY CANTATA  10:30AM CCC: COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP	22	23 9AM CRAFTY LADIES  9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST	24 CHRISTMAS EVE  4PM: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY  	26	27
28 9:30AM WORSHIP  10:30AM CCC: WHO AM I? HOLIDAY EDITION	29	30 9AM CRAFTY LADIES  9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST	31 	01	02	03



# UPDATES TO COFFEE TIME:

The Fellowship Committee is pleased to share an update regarding our coffee fellowship rotation. In response to the busy schedules of many individuals involved in multiple committees, we have made a slight adjustment by combining certain committees to oversee coffee fellowship time.

This adjustment will result in a slightly increased frequency of service for each group, while also expanding the pool of individuals available to assist with coffee time. The newly combined committees responsible for coffee fellowship will be as follows:

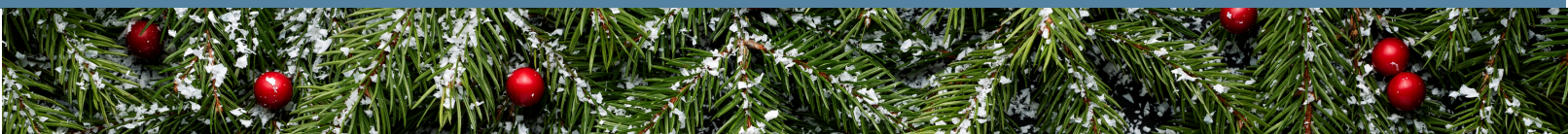
- Faith Formation and Fellowship
- Men's Breakfast and Building and Grounds
- Communications and Finance
  - Deacons and Mission
- Worship and Music and Personnel
  - 7 AM and 10 AM Bible Studies
- Racial Justice Reading Group, Session, Choir, and Crafty Ladies will remain unchanged.

The new rotation will commence in January, and Christy will send a reminder email to the leaders of each group at the beginning of their designated week to serve.

We appreciate your flexibility and cooperation as we strive to enhance our coffee fellowship experience and foster a sense of community within our church. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our shared ministry.

## Coffee Time Volunteer Schedule

JANUARY 4	MEN'S BREAKFAST & BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 11	COMMUNICATIONS & FINANCE COMMITTEES
JANUARY 18	DEACONS & MISSIONS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 25	NA-ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK
FEBRUARY 1	WORSHIP & MUSIC & PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
FEBRUARY 8	PEOPLE OF FAITH & WOMEN OF FAITH BIBLE STUDIES
FEBRUARY 15	FAITH FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES
FEBRUARY 22	RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP
MARCH 1	SESSION
MARCH 8	CHOIR
MARCH 15	CRAFTY LADIES



## Immigration Aid Collection

Immigrant Aid is blessed to have received a grant facilitated by BPC's Mission Committee and blessed further by your willingness to support our "clean living" initiative by donating soaps, detergents, toothpaste, shampoos, etc. each month.

Thank you so much for Loving Your Immigrant Neighbors this November! Thirty-one families and individuals attended our distribution meeting and divided up what you gave so that everyone was able to share equally; no one takes more!

Your generous donations allowed 8 families to get a bar of soap, 15 families to each get 10 loads of clean laundry, 15 families to have clean dishes and 15 families to enjoy shampooed clean hair. What gifts of love, dignity and just plain feeling good!! There were much laughter, awe and joy as individuals learned about detergent that came in sheets, pods and a variety of scents.

As a bonus, we're encouraging families to re-use their containers by bringing them back next time to be refilled.

Thank you, Mission Committee, for supplying the donation bin outside the fellowship hall. If you have any questions about what to donate or suggestions about available resources, please let me know. Blessings! Patti Pokorney

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.

# DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## December Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers
12/7	Worship & Music Committee	Kathy Quady & Larry Janski	Chuck Klaassen	Eric Ellwoods	Kellie Johnson & Kevin Spike
12/14	Crafty Ladies	Liz Klaassen & Charlie Wilkens	Mary Markve-Patch	Chuck Klaassen	Kellie Johnson & Kevin Spike
12/21	Adult Choir	Elaine Thole & Kathy Quady	Kathy Quady & Larry Janski	Mike Quady	Kellie Johnson & Kevin Spike
12/24	Christmas Eve Service at 4pm	Spirit of Joy?	NA		
12/28	Fellowship Committee	Larry Janski & Liz Klaassen	Steve Grittman	Eric Ellwoods	Kellie Johnson & Kevin Spike

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

CHRISTMAS  
EVE SERVICE

We are looking for volunteers for our *Christmas Eve Service*. This service will be at 4pm on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please let Christy know if you are able to help at this time. Thank you!



### The Office Will Be Closed On These Holidays

January 1, 2026  
January 19, 2026  
May 25, 2026  
September 7, 2026  
November 26, 2026  
December 25, 2026

# SESSION SUMMARY

## Highlights of the November 16th Stated Meeting



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

### Session adopts Project Regeneration

Building off the discussions we had with the presbytery's Interim Co-Executive Presbyter Anna Kendig Flores during Pastor Brian's sabbatical this year, the Session has decided to move forward with a program to help us map our future. Elders approved participating in Project Regeneration, an initiative of the Presbyterian Foundation. The program will run four to five months in 2026. A Ministry Relations Officer from the foundation will facilitate three meetings ranging from one to three hours. There will also be a book to read and 40 days of prayerful discernment.

As we celebrate our 150 years of ministry, the Session wants to continue to discuss with the whole church how our next chapter of mission and ministry will look.

### Treasurer provides stewardship campaign update

Church treasurer Mandy Harkess provided the Session with an update on the stewardship campaign for the 2026 budget. As of November 21, twenty-five pledges have been received. Pledges broke down as follows:  
General Fund: 113,500; Building Fund: \$5,380; Per Capita: 1,328. The total comes to \$120,208 compared to \$141,630 which was pledged last year. The 25 pledges received compares to 31 pledges last year. The Session encourages those of you who have not pledged to do so. Your financial commitment to BPC helps the Session to plan through 2026. Thank you!

### 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)

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