

THE NEW TIMES

March 2023



BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NEW TIMES



## *Soup Suppers Wednesdays March 1-29*

6:00 PM

### **Classes, Coffee, and Conversations**

March 5

TGIF

March 12

Coffee & Conversations,

No Class

March 19

Conversations to Go

March 26

Conversations with

Pastor Brian

### **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 is outside the office.** We hope you'll join us as we gather for food, fellowship, and spiritual practice during Lent!



**JOIN US**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Joyful Ringers from Zion Luthern Church  
will be joining  
our Choir during worship

**On Sunday, March 12 the  
Zion Handbell Choir will be  
joining us for worship at  
9:30. The bells will provide  
prelude music as well as  
play with the hymns and  
with the choir. Please  
come early and enjoy the  
great music!!**

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

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## The Journey Towards the Cross



We spend the season of Lent preparing for and looking towards the Cross of Good Friday and the Empty Tomb of Easter Sunday. The image of the cross surrounds our life and faith, adorning our church and for many of us our homes and bodies as well, yet I wonder if sometimes it becomes so familiar to us that we forget to contemplate what all the cross means.

Crucifixion was a horrific method of public torture and execution used by the Roman Empire primarily against bandits and rebels, those who threatened the empire and were not citizens of it. In the pain of his torture and execution on the cross Jesus, who is God incarnate, experiences the very worst of what humanity can suffer and the very worst of what humanity can offer. In the crucifixion of Jesus God stands in solidarity with human pain and suffering, an eternal promise that at our very lowest we are not alone.

While divine solidarity with human suffering can be an incredibly hopeful message, the meaning of the cross goes much deeper. Jesus is known for the various statements he made while hanging on the cross, perhaps the most powerful of which is recorded in Luke's Gospel.

*Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."  
-Luke 23:34*

After facing betrayal, denial, torture, and now execution Jesus embodies divine mercy as he prays for forgiveness for those who are killing him. This act of mercy alone is a powerful one, yet it also shows the mercy extended to all of us through the cross. In his death, Jesus, the sinless God man, takes on the sin of the world, of all humanity. On the cross we see the dysfunction, the pain, the harm of the world taken on by God in Jesus, the very one who deserved none of it, who contributed to none of it.

If the story ended with Jesus' death it would seem a story without hope and without joy. But our celebrations and remembrances don't stop with Good Friday, but continue on to Easter Sunday, towards that morning in the garden where the tomb is empty and Christ is risen. It is because of the resurrection that we can say the cross is a sign of victory and not defeat. A sign of love more than a sign of hate. In his resurrection the cross becomes a symbol of Jesus' conquering of sin and death, the very powers which have held humanity at bay, keeping us from the fullness of life with God intended from the beginning. Paul states this so eloquently and simply in his letter to the Romans.

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:38-39*

What was a sign of humiliation, torture, and murder, the worst of humanity, became a sign of redemption, freedom, and love, the gift of God.

On the cross, Jesus transforms the very worst parts of human life with the very best of divine life. Offering forgiveness where none was earned. Bringing victory out of the clutches of defeat. Conquering death by death and rising to new life. Giving love where only fear and hate were shown.

Friends, this is the power of the cross, the power of God to transform and renew the world, the power of God to transform and renew us.

So I invite you, this Lent, into greater reflection on the depth of meaning found in the tree on which our Savior hung, and in that reflection may you draw closer to Jesus our Lord, our Friend, our elder Brother, and our God.

Amen.

-Pastor Brian



## **BUFFALO FOOD SHELF**

Our Food Shelf Board member, Joan Lowe, has sent us great news:

- Raised \$2900.00 on Give To The Max Day
- Raised approximately \$6500.00 and 950 pounds of food from the Holiday Train
- Gave out 246 Thanksgiving Baskets
- Gave out 237 Christmas Baskets
- Gave out 142 Kids Choice bags over the holidays
- Started a new program with the Phoenix school assisting the teachers with providing food for those students
- Mason's Fundraiser runs through February (BPC participated in this)
- March Foodshare Month will be starting February 27
- Food Shelf will be doing Easter Baskets with ham vouchers beginning in March
- In the Narthex is a grocery cart with grocery bags with a list of the "most needed items" for the Food Shelf. Collecting from February 27 to April 9.

This certainly shows the importance of the Buffalo Food Shelf to the community and certainly serves in the issue of hunger in our community.

## **GIVE: Syria-Turkey Earthquake Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – PDA**

Our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided information for members to help support the recovery of people in Syria and Turkey because of the disaster from the earthquake.

Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to [DR999999-ST earthquake](#). Gifts can be made online, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "[DR999999-ST Earthquake](#)" written on the memo line and mailed to:

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
P.O. Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700**



## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

March 6, Noon to 6:00 p.m. To give blood, sign up online at [RedCrossBlood.org](#), enter Buffalo MN.

### **Fill a bag for our Local Food Shelf**

Respond to food insecurity in our community by filling a grocery bag with much needed food and household items for our local food shelf. There are bags in the grocery cart in the narthex. This March campaign is from February 27th through April 9th.

**Do you wish you could have fresh, home-grown vegetables but lack the time and/or ability to maintain a full garden plot?**

**We have the answer for you**

Coming Thursday April 17, 2023 at 7pm

at Buffalo Presbyterian Church

Container Gardening Class—

Presented by 2 Master Gardener Interns

There will be hands-on planting, door prizes, and more.  
Mark the date. Details coming soon!!

# March 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1  
6:00p Soup Supper  
7:30p 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

4

5  
9:30a Worship with  
Communion  
10:30a CCC: TGIF  
1:30p Confirmation

6  
12:00p Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
6:30p Prayer Shawl  
7:00p AA Meeting

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

8  
6:00p Soup Supper  
7:30p Adult Choir

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

10

11

12 [Daylight Saving Time](#)  
9:30a Worship  
10:30a CCC: Coffee &  
Conversations, No Class  
11:30a Worship & Music  
Committee Meeting

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

14  
9:00a Crafty Ladies  
6:30p Finance Committee  
Meeting  
7:30p Missions Committee  
Meeting

15  
6:00p Soup Supper  
7:30p Adult Choir

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

17 [St. Patrick's  
Day](#)

18  
10:00a SPOT:  
Stewardship

19  
9:30a Worship  
10:30a Congregational  
Meeting  
10:30a CCC:  
Conversations to Go  
1:30p Confirmation

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

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

22  
6:00p Soup Supper  
7:30p Adult Choir

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

24

25

26  
9:30a Worship  
10:30a CCC:  
Conversations with Pastor  
Brian

27  
7:00p AA Meeting

28  
9:00a Crafty Ladies

29  
6:00p Soup Supper  
7:30p Adult Choir

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

31



## Upcoming Events



**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.**

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

**SAVE THE DATE: April SPOT is to be determined. Watch for more information.**



**PALM SUNDAY  
CHOIR CANTATA**  
April 2, 9:30 AM



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
April 6, 7:00 PM

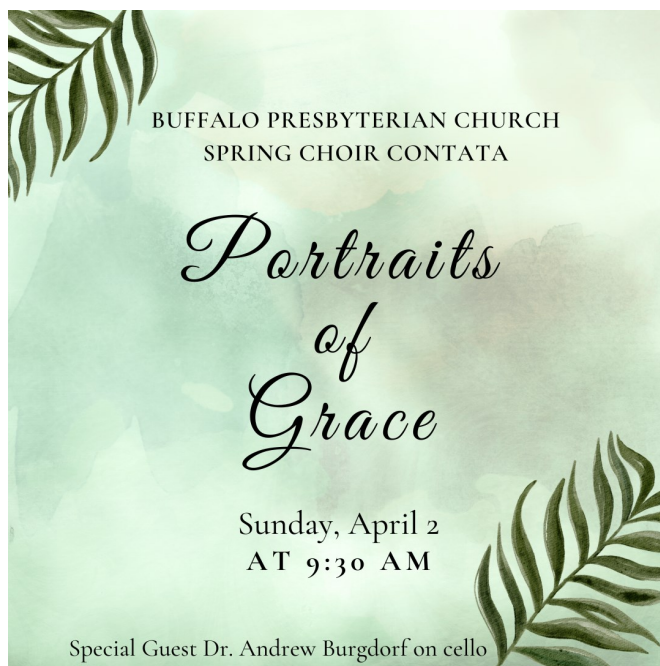


**GOOD FRIDAY**  
April 7, 7:00 PM



**EASTER SUNDAY**  
April 9, 9:30 AM

**Mark your calendar now to hear the annual Palm Sunday Cantata presented by the BPC Choir. This year it will tell the story of Jesus' final days; his triumphal entry, the Last Supper, the garden of Gethsemane, and the crucifixion using artists' creations and music. The choir will be joined by Dr. Andrew Burgdorf on the cello and feature soloists from the choir.**



**Order your Easter Flowers  
Today!**

Please submit your payment  
and order form to the office  
by Sunday, March 12

# March Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers	Pray & Play
3/5	Vanderheiden Family	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Barb Janski	Eric Ellwoods	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike	NA
3/12	Vanderheiden Family	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Theresa Bevilacqua	Chuck Klaassen	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike	Mandy Harkess
3/19	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Lisa Ellwoods	Mike Quady	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike	Victoria Vanderheiden
3/26	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Larry & Lavina Pattee	Mike Quady/ Al DeBellis	Kathy Quady	Eric Ellwoods	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike	Cindy Doth
4/2	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Lavina Pattee	Chuck Klaassen	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	NA

## Celebrating Pearl Lieb

**Join us in Celebrating Pearl Lieb's 85 years of Life Lived to the Fullest!**

Sunday March 12, 2023

12:00 - 12:30 Visitation

12:30 - 1:00 Celebrating Pearl through music

1:00 - 4:00 Memorial Service with Reception to follow

Please come for as much of the Celebration as you desire.



You may have noticed the new hanging banner in the Narthex as you enter our building. In November, the choir presented a cantata celebrating the seasons of the church year. The ribbons have been displayed in the front of the church since the cantata. Each ribbon represents a specific church season. The worship and music committee wanted the ribbons to be a permanent banner. This hanging banner is made with a grapevine wreath reminding us that the year is circular. You can also sometimes see that this banner moves, indicating that the Holy Spirit is indeed among us through all seasons.

## Session Summary

Highlights of the February 21 Stated Meeting

### Session moves forward with accessibility audit

After hearing input from the congregation on the recently completed accessibility audit, the Session will appoint a team to look at ways to incorporate some of the audit's recommendations. Several members have already volunteered for the team. The Session is also putting together a job description for the team. They are expected to approve the team and description in March.

### Church's demographics reported to PC (USA)

The Clerk of Session has submitted BPC's annual statistics to the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Presbytery of the Twin Cities. The report states that our membership is made up of the following age ranges as defined by the denomination: Under 17-4 %, 18-25-9 %, 26-40-14 %, 41-55-16 %, 56-70-29 %, and Over 70-29 %.

### Special Congregational Meeting called for March 19

The Session called a special congregational meeting for March 19 following worship to elect three at-large members to the nominating committee. These members, along with an Elder and a Deacon will nominate, officers for the Session (2) and Board of Deacons (2) for the coming three years.



### 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.

### PRAYER OF ST PATRICK

*Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man  
who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone  
who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.*

**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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