



SERVICE FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

14 JANUARY 2024
4:00 PM

Classes, Coffee, and Conversations

January 7
Conversation-To-Go

January 14
Pastor Brian

January 21
TBD

January 28
Annual Meeting & Potluck

February 4
Who Am I? Game



ANNUAL MEETING AND

SUNDAY DINNER POTLUCK

JANUARY 28, SUNDAY
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

FOOD IS APPRECIATED



Please join us for a Sunday Dinner Potluck in the fellowship hall following the BPC Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28. Bring a dish to share and enjoy yummy food, energizing conversation and great fellowship with other BPC family members and friends. See you then!

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*

The Gift of the New Year



The new year starts, whether we are ready for it or not. With it's beginning comes for many the making of resolutions, the taking on of a word for the year, or some new/renewed habit or practice. For some people it is just another trip around the sun and there are no new habits, words, or resolutions.

The New Year celebration falls in the midst of the 12 day season of Christmas, a season (for many)

filled with gatherings, lots of cookies, and gifts given and received. Most importantly Christmas is the celebration of God's greatest gift to the world, God's very self in the baby Jesus. The season of Christmas ends with Epiphany, on January 6th, when we remember the visitation of the Magi to the Christ child and his parents.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. -Matthew 2:11

These wise men bring with them gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but also themselves in worship. Before they present the items they bring they give themselves, bowing low in worship of this baby, who's birth was foretold by a star in the heavens. This gift of worship, of their own presence and attention, is the greatest gift they gave, even though it is the least spoken of and the least remembered.

As we begin the new year we have the chance not just to better our health, change our spending, or adopt new habits, but also the opportunity to renew our faith and spiritual life, to give ourselves anew to God as the magi gave themselves in worship. **This new year I invite you to take time and ask yourself what gift might you offer Christ?** How might you rededicate (or dedicate for the first time) yourself to God? While specific acts of service and gifts of money or possessions are important and valued in the Christian life the most important thing we can offer God is our very self. Our love (of God and neighbor), our attention, and our worship are the most prized gifts we can give to God.

Perhaps you are aware of something that has been taking your time and attention away from God, could that time be the thing you offer back? Maybe you have been feeling called to a new or renewed form of mission and ministry in the church, could answering that call be what you give to God this year? Has your prayer and devotional life been put on the back burner or abandoned all together, maybe picking that practice up once more can be your gift? Only you and God know the gift you could give and only you can give it.

Regardless of what new habits and resolutions you might make this year, I invite you to consider what you might give God in 2024.

Therefore, I urge you, siblings, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. -Romans 12:1

New Year Blessings to you all!
-Pastor Brian





COMMUNITY GARDEN

We have created a monthly to-do list for the garden. It is very detailed and contains items that volunteers can help with and the other things that need to be completed. We will be working more on this in January.

GIRL SCOUTS

Pastor Brian informed us about the Girl Scout troop using the church the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. They will be volunteering for us instead of paying the building fees.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Our Adopt a family went well, we had a family of 4 this year. Every item was fulfilled on their list.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE HYGIENE KITS

160 Kits for PDA were made and extra dollars from this are going to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

RIVERS OF HOPE

We had 16 gift cards that we gave to Rivers of Hope, the cards totaled \$405.

PARENTING WITH GRACE

Parenting with Grace donations of \$220 were given from our Mission Committee funds and the Peacemaking offering. (bringing Parenting with Grace donation total from this and crafty ladies to \$1,2220 for the year)

ANNUAL CRAFT & BAKE SALE

The Crafty Ladies discussed how they'd like the distribution of Craft Sale funds to go and worked with the total figure of roughly \$8,200. They broke down the distribution as follows.

Presbyterian Mission: \$2,000

Rivers of Hope: \$1,000

Buffalo Food Shelf: \$800

Wrapped in Love: \$800

Love INC Big Woods: \$800

Presbyterian Clearwater Forest: \$800

Cold Weather Shelter (administered by Love INC): \$1,000

Parenting with Grace: \$1,000

Any money raised beyond the \$8,200 was put towards the Christmas Joy offering

January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 7:00p AA Meeting	2 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	3 6:00p Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00p Adult Choir	4 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group 7:00p Communications Committee Meeting	5	6
7 9:30a Worship with Communion 10:30a Coffee & Conversations— Conversation-To-Go	8 5:30p Fellowship Committee Meeting 6:30p PEO 7:00p AA Meeting	9 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 5:00p Missions Committee Meeting 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting	10 7:00p Adult Choir	11 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	12	13
14 9:30a Worship 10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-Pastor Brian 4:00p Service for Healing & Wholeness	15 4:30p Deacons Meeting 6:30p Faith Formation Committee Meeting 6:30p Girl Scouts 7:00p AA Meeting	16 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 6:30p Session	17 7:00p Adult Choir	18 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	19	20
21 8:30a 150th Planning Meeting 9:30a Worship 10:30a Classes, Coffee, & Conversations- TBD	22 7:00p AA Meeting	23 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	24 7:00p Adult Choir	25 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	26	27 10:00a SPOT: Discover Mindfulness with Lefse
28 9:30a Worship 10:30a Annual Meeting & Sunday Dinner Potluck	29 7:00p AA Meeting	30 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	31 7:00p Adult Choir			

SPOT

Spiritual Practices of Today

Saturday
January 27
10:00 am



DISCOVER MINDFULNESS WITH LEFSE

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.

Embrace tranquility and joy with the art of making lefse. Love cooking? Learn to Make Lefse While Relishing Every Moment. Uncover the therapeutic benefits of creating this Scandinavian delicacy. From rolling out the perfect dough to savoring each bite, find peace in perfecting the process. Join Jean and Cindy on Saturday January 27, 2024 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall to learn about and enjoy lefse.

Please watch for more information about the upcoming February 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.

Get your copy at the end of January!!

NEW MARKETING TOOLS

The Communications Committee was gifted a \$500 scholarship from Integri-Prints. They were able to purchase a table cover, pop-up sign, and 2 banners with the money. These items will be used when BPC is out in the community representing our church.



January Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers
1/7	Becky & Don Eddy	Dave & Jean Johnson	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Ashton Olsen	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
1/14	Becky & Don Eddy	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Eric Ellwoods	Chuck Klaassen	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
1/21	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Al DeBellis/ Larry Pattee	Larry Janski	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
1/28	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Kathy Quady/ Larry Janski	Mike Quady	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
2/4	Diane Ellis	Dave & Jean Johnson	Al DeBellis/ Elaine Thole	Kellie Johnson	Mike Quady	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike

Buffalo Presbyterian Church Celebrates 148th Birthday

On Sunday, December 10, Buffalo Presbyterian Church celebrated its 148th birthday. The church was founded in 1875 and a building was constructed on the corner of 1st Street and First Avenue in 1877 (current farmers' market site) making it the oldest church in the city of Buffalo. The week before members put together 161 hygiene kits (photo above) to send to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA will distribute the kits—tooth brushes, bars of soap, washcloths, hand towels, bandages, nail clippers, and combs—to victims of natural disasters and human violence around the world.



Session Summary

Highlights of the December Meeting

Session is thankful for members' generosity

Treasurer Mandy Harkess reported that pledges were above last year's pledges during the same time frame. Although several pledges haven't been received, she noted that giving levels among our members have increased and that members were honoring the pledges they made for 2023. Session members noted the continuing generosity of our members and friends, not only with their financial contributions but with their time and talents as well. They look forward to showing their appreciation in 2024 for all that our worshipping community has done in 2023.

Members will discuss church land use at the annual meeting

In addition to discussing routine business at the annual meeting on January 28, the congregation will discuss whether there is any interest in selling a portion of the church property (southwest edge). This idea was first brought to Session by members of the congregation. If there is interest in a land sale, the Session would begin exploring possible uses for the property and bring alternatives back to the congregation. The discussion at the annual meeting will focus on the area of property that might be sold and what the procedure would be if the congregation chooses to explore a sale.

Mary Markve-Patch will serve as Ashton Olson's CPM Liaison

The Session appointed Mary Markve-Patch as the Session liaison to support Ashton Olsen as they explore ordination with the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for the Ministry (CPM). Markve-Patch will attend meetings with Olsen and keep the Session informed about their progress. The Session is exploring, with CPM, adding an additional liaison to provide more support.

Girl Scouts troop will be meeting at BPC

Pastor Brian Entz provided some details to the Session about the Girl Scouts group that will be using the church. The girls, younger elementary-age kids, and their leaders will be meeting on the first and third Mondays each month. They are looking forward to doing service projects with, and for, the church. If you have any ideas for a project they might do, contact an Elder, Brian, or Christy.



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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