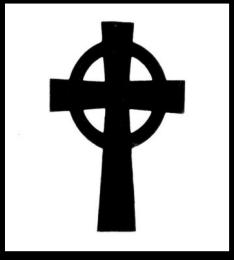


THE NEW TIMES

July 2023



BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NEW TIMES

You're invited to

4TH OF JULY PICNIC

Hot Dogs, Brats, Beans,
Chips, Drinks, and Dessert

Indoor and Outdoor Games



July 4, 2023 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Buffalo Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

July 30th at 9:30 am at
STURGES PARK PAVILION



Please bring

- Dish to Share
- Chair/ Blanket
- Drinks
- Plates & Cutlery

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

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Like many things in life we have made (or at least tried to make) the act of hospitality an industry and commodity, but for most of human existence hospitality has been a practice of individuals, households, and communities. Hospitality is ultimately a cordial and generous reception of guests, in other words a warm welcome. Hospitality has a long history among the cultures of the Bible and the expectations of the people of God as recorded in scripture.

Isaiah 58:6-7 (NIV) says,

*“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:..
...Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shel-
ter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh
and blood?”*

The prophet lays out the expectation of God for God's people, that is an expectation of hospitality, of welcome, of care. It doesn't matter if they are hungry, in need of shelter, or without clothing, nor does it matter if they are a stranger or family. Welcome is expected regardless.

The New Testament book of Hebrews, chapter 13:2 (NIV) also names God's expectation of hospitality and welcome when it says, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” In fact this passage takes the act of welcome a step further by saying that in showing hospitality to a stranger you may in fact be welcoming an angel. The author of Hebrews could be referencing the story from Genesis where Abraham and Sarah welcome 3 strangers who turn out to be messengers of God, one of whom was not just angel, but actually the Lord God. Both of these passages, along with others like Jesus teaching in Matthew 25, go so far as to connect our hospitality, care, and welcome of others with our welcome of God. Thus elevating the act of hospitality and welcome to one of holy and spiritual importance. We cannot separate how we welcome and treat other people from how we welcome and treat God, for the two acts are indeed one.

If this isn't daunting enough, Jesus' teaching in the Gospel reading for July 2nd adds one more piece to the practice of welcome. Matthew 10:40-42 (NRSV) says:

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

In this passage we are reminded that not only do we, will we, meet God in others, but others can and will meet God in we who are followers of Jesus. Thus our relationships and interactions with others become the very welcoming of God.

May this reality be our constant companion and meditation in life. That God is present and working in those we meet and those who meet us. It is no small task to treat our interactions with others as the very presence of God, but can we really expect them to be anything less when we are told that God created humanity, each and every person, in the image and likeness of God. To treat every interaction we have, every welcome we offer and are offered, as a holy and divine encounter with both creature and creator is our calling as Christians and people of God.

What a humble blessing it is to meet God in the face of others and to be the face in which others might meet God. Especially when those people are different from us, those in need, and those we don't yet know.

Our challenge, calling, and blessing is before us and my hope is that our statement of welcome, adopted by the Session over a year ago, will be our reminder.

We strive to love, affirm, and celebrate all who join us, regardless of abilities, age, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation. Please join us with your whole self as we journey with Christ.

Grace and Peace to you all,
-Pastor Brian



BUFFALO FOOD SHELF

The Buffalo Food Shelf is looking for volunteers. Please contact them if you are interested in helping or speak with Joan Lowe.

BPC COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden is looking great! We are happy to have several wonderful gardeners and we are looking forward to the produce that grows.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, JULY 8

Please consider signing up for this community event and wear your Buffalo Presbyterian shirt for it. This shows the community how we are involved to serve.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, AUGUST 16

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, August 16th from 12pm to 6pm. There will be a sign up

Community Breakfast

Join us on Saturday **July 8th** as we serve breakfast at the Buffalo Community Center. We'll need volunteers for a variety of tasks from 7am till about 10:30am. Please sign up outside the office.



July 2023

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1

2

9:30a Worship with Communion
10:30a Coffee & Conversations

3

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

4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

1:00p July 4th Picnic

5

6

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

7

8:00a Life Line Screening

8

7:00a Community Breakfast at Buffalo Community Center

9

9:30a Worship
10:30a Coffee & Conversations

10

6:30p PEO
7:00p AA Meeting

11

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast
6:30p Finance Committee Meeting
7:30p Missions Committee Meeting

12

1:00p Personnel Committee Meeting

13

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

14

15

16

9:30a Worship
10:30a Coffee & Conversations

17

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

18

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast

19

20

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

21

22

23

9:30a Worship
10:30a Coffee & Conversations

24

7:00p AA Meeting

25

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast

26

27

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

28

29

30

9:30a Worship in the Park at Sturgis Park
10:30a Potluck

31

7:00p AA Meeting

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.

SPOT will be on hiatus for the months of July and August. They will start back up again in September. Watch for more information.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

12:00pm to 6:00pm

Please call 1-800-RED Cross (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org enter Sponsor Code: Buffalo MN



*Seek the LORD
and his strength;
seek His presence
continually!*

1 Chronicles 16:11

July Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers	Pray & Play
7/2	Diane Ellis	Larry & Lavina Pattee	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Steve Grittman	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	NA
7/9	Becky & Don Eddy	Dave & Jean Johnson	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Ashton Olsen	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	NA
7/16	Becky & Don Eddy	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Mike Quady/ Al DeBellis	Eric Ellwoods	Chuck Klaassen	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	NA
7/23	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Barb Janski	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	NA
7/30	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	NA	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Theresa Bevilacqua	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike	NA
8/6	Deb Anderson/ Kathy Quady	Larry & Lavina Pattee	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Lisa Ellwoods	Chuck Klaassen	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike	NA



DIRECTORY UPDATE

In the summer months we will be updating the Member Directory. Please watch for more information.

News from our Treasurer

2023 Mid-Year Giving Update			
	Pledged	Given	%
General Fund	135,132	71,838	53%
Building Fund	5,714	2,882	50%
Per Capita	2,100	828	39%



Session Summary

Highlights of the June 20 Stated Meeting and June Special Meetings

Session agrees to committee assignments for the coming year

Each year the Session decides which Elders will serve as liaisons to the Session's eight committees. The Elder has the option of chairing the committee or representing the Session on the committee. The committee assignments for the coming year (June-May) are Building and Grounds—Don Eddy, Communications—Larry Janski, Faith Formation—Mary Markve-Patch, Fellowship—Chuck Klaassen, Finance—Theresa Bevilacqua, Mission—Jill Gatzke, Personnel—Kathy Quady, and Worship and Music—Ralph Johansen.

Session will continue to replace stolen Pride flag

The Session was informed that the Pride flag which has flown on the church sign since late winter was ripped down on June 12. The church erected the flag as a symbol that we welcome all people. It reflects the welcome statement approved by the Session last year: "We strive to love, affirm, and celebrate all who join us, regardless of abilities, age, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation. Please join us with your whole self as we journey with Christ." The Session agreed to replace the flag and will continue to do so as needed. Update: The flag was taken for a second time. A new flag was donated by Buffalo Books and Coffee and it was installed on June 27.

Three confirmation students will join the active members roll

Before worship on June 11 Ella Doth, Anna Long, Sebastian Vanderheiden met with the Session at a special meeting. The three youth have spent the year in a confirmation class with Pastor Brian Entz. Each of them read their faith statements and discussed them with Elders. They were approved to become members and professed their faith at worship later that morning.

New Deacons and Elders examined and ordained

The Session examined Larry Janski, Michele Lawlor, and Joan Lowe at two special meetings and approved the three for ordination and installation. Each read their faith statements to the Session and discussed their faith journeys with the Elders. Janski was ordained as an Elder at worship on June 11. Lawlor and Lowe were ordained as Deacons on June 18. Current Elder Theresa Vanderheiden was installed to another three-year term on June 11. The congregation elected the four leaders in May.



Session

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

Theresa Bevilacqua	Finance Committee
Cindy Doth	Education & Youth Committee
Don Eddy	Building & Grounds Committee
Jill Gatzke	Missions Committee
Larry Janski	Communications Committee
Chuck Klaassen	Fellowship Committee
Mary Markve-Patch	Faith Formation Committee
Ralph Johansen	Worship & Music 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	
Louise Markve	

*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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