

JANUARY 2026

BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GOOD NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **Crafty Ladies & Mission Committee Discussed Disbursement Amounts**
- **Several Mission Opportunites**
- **2026 Community Suppers are Back!**
- ***Happy New Year!***

SERVICE
FOR
HEALING &
WHOLENESS

Having a difficult winter or holiday season?

Come seek the healing & wholeness that God can offer

JANUARY 11, 2026
9:30 AM

COMMUNITY CHILI FEED

JANUARY 31, 2026 4:30-6PM

Everyone is warmly invited to attend!

We'll be serving delicious chili,
cornbread, and all the fixings.

Best of all, it's free!!!

Please help us spread the word to the community
so we can all enjoy this together.

Hosted by Buffalo Presbyterian Church 507 Calder Ave NE Buffalo, MN





A CURIOUS NEW YEAR

Classes, Coffee, & Conversations

January 4, 2026
~ Holiday "Who Am I?"

January 11, 2026
~ Conversations To Go

January 18, 2026
~ Pastor Brian

January 25, 2026
~ Annual Meeting
w/Potluck

As the new year starts some people will make resolutions, some people will set intentions or priorities for how they live in this year. I want to extend an invitation for you in 2026, to approach all that happens in the year with curiosity.

Curiosity is the desire to learn something new. Instead of assuming one knows it all, or even just enough, curiosity is an openness with which one approaches the situation or subject before them. Sometimes curiosity is associated with children, as they have had less time to build up bias and preconceived notions, and thus are prone to want to know more. The prime example is the child who unendingly asks why while some adult tries to explain a concept to them. Matthew's Gospel shows Jesus telling his audience that they need to become like children in order to enter the Kingdom.

[Jesus] said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. - Matthew 18:3

I like the idea that part of this instruction to become like children is an invitation to curiosity, which in itself is a humble posture as it recognizes that we don't know everything. This connection between curiosity and humility is an important one, as humility is a virtue long lauded by our Christian tradition. In moments of anger, confusion, and stubbornness (among many other feelings and situations) curiosity can help keep us open and humble and can lead to greater understanding.

In a moment of disagreement curiosity can lead us to understand the other person's point of view, growing empathy and understanding while also staving off hardheartedness and divisive thinking. This growth in empathy and understanding does not mean that we will come to agree with the other person(s), but it can help us to continue to recognize their inherent worth as humans who bear the image of God.

In a world with so much content available, some of which is presented as facts regardless of how truthful it is, curiosity can be a tool of discernment, guiding us towards greater understanding and empathy in the midst of difference, disagreement, and division. I invite you to approach the new year with greater curiosity, about the people and world around you leading to a renewing of your mind and heart and guiding you always closer to Jesus.

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. - Romans 12:2

Blessed New Year,
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

Thank you for your generosity in helping a family in the Community again this Christmas Season!

Rivers of Hope Gift Card Drive

Thank you to all of you that helped us, help others in the Community! You are appreciated!

Community Meals in 2026

Our next Community Meal of Chili and Cornbread is scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 2026 from 4:30pm to 6pm. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office. Thank you for being apart of this! Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus!

SERVICE
FOR
HEALING &
WHOLENESS

2026

Having a difficult winter or holiday season?

Come seek the healing & wholeness that God can offer

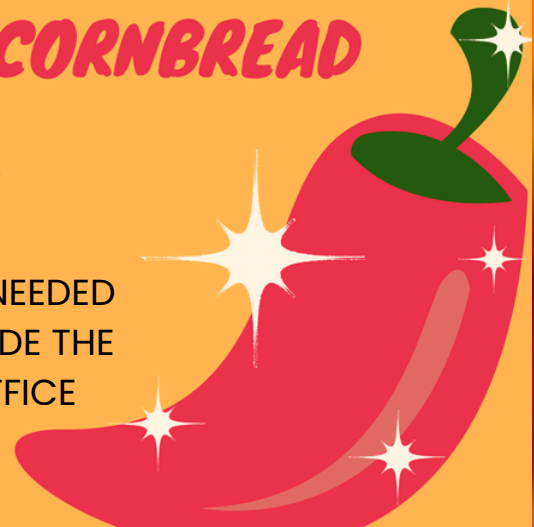
JANUARY 11, 2026
9:30 AM

CHILI & CORNBREAD

Community Meal

January 31, 2026
4:30pm-6pm

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
SIGN UP OUTSIDE THE
CHURCH OFFICE



Craft Sale Proceeds to Community Missions

The total count from the craft sale was \$7,419.10. Crafty Ladies discussed the possible disbursement amounts and together with the Mission Committee decided on the following amounts:

- ~Presbyterian Mission \$2,000
- ~Clearwater Forest \$800
- ~Wrapped in Love \$800
- ~Parenting With Grace \$1,000
- ~LOVE, INC \$800
- ~Cold Weather Fund \$500
- ~Rivers of Hope \$1,000
- ~Buffalo Food Shelf \$500



January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				01 NEW YEAR'S DAY	02	03
Embrace the new month with joy and positivity. Let's open our hearts to new opportunities and make this January unforgettable						
04 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE W/ COMMUNION 10:30AM CCC: HOLIDAY "WHO AM I?"	05 6:30PM PRAYER SHAWL GROUP	06 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30PM FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE MTG	07 11AM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING 7PM ADULT CHOIR	08 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	09	10
11 9:30AM WORSHIP: SERVICE FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS 10:30AM CCC: PASTOR BRIAN LEAD CONVERSATIONS TO GO	12	13 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 5PM MISSIONS COMMITTEE MTG 6:30PM FINANCE MTG	14 7PM ADULT CHOIR	15 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	16	17
18 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM CCC: PASTOR BRIAN	19 OFFICE CLOSED 5PM: DEACONS MEETING	20 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30PM SESSION MEETING	21 7PM: ADULT CHOIR	22 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	23	24
25 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM CCC: ANNUAL MEETING WITH POTLUCK	26	27 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST	28 7PM: ADULT CHOIR	29 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	30	31 4:30PM CHILI & CORNBREAD COMMUNITY SUPPER



"IT WASN'T ABOUT THE MILES; IT WAS ABOUT THE PEOPLE"

Lawrence Lee Pattee, 90, passed away at home on November 2, 2025, in the presence of his family. He was born on August 13, 1935, on a farm outside of Avoca, Iowa, the youngest and last surviving child of William and Alma (Rock) Pattee's seven children.

Lawrence grew up on a farm, which instilled a love of nature, an appreciation for hard work, and a strong sense of community, faith, and family.

He graduated from Avoca High School in 1953. Lawrence went to Tarkio College, in Tarkio, Missouri, where he met his wife of 68 years, Lavina (McKee) Pattee. Larry played football, basketball and ran track, earning 11 letters in college and was named Man of the Year for his graduating class. Larry and Lavina graduated from college in the morning and were married in the afternoon in the same building on May 21, 1957.

Larry was an educator—a teacher, coach, and school administrator—his whole life. He got a master's degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon.

After serving in the Army, Larry lived in Tarkio, Missouri; Dubuque, Iowa; and Alexandria, Egypt, before retiring to Big Lake, Minnesota. He and Lavina welcomed family visits, fishing in Big Lake and were active in the Buffalo Presbyterian Church.

Larry is survived by Lavina, their children Jeff, Randy (Val Ruttenberg), Linda (Jerry Gilfoyle), and Sharon (Terry Kibby) and grandchildren Jack (Sophie), Emmett, and Cy Pattee, Emily (Connor) and Erin Kibby, and Catherine and Garrett Gilfoyle. He was preceded in death by siblings Laverne, Edward, Arlene, William, Wallace, Donald, and by his son, Keith.

Larry was a citizen of the world. He was happiest when traveling—whether behind the wheel of the car exploring all 50 United States or while visiting and living in over 30 countries. Dr. Pattee loved his family, the morning newspaper, shoveling snow, and sitting outside by the fire. Services will be held at Buffalo Presbyterian Church.



"IT WASN'T ABOUT THE MILES; IT WAS ABOUT THE PEOPLE"



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.

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

JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Service Date	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers
1/4	Men's Breakfast & Building & Grounds Committee	Kellie Johnson & Kathy Quady	Ashton Olsen	Chuck Klaassen	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
1/11	Communication & Finance Committees	Elaine Thole & Charlie Wilkens	Kathy Quady	Mike Quady	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
1/18	Deacons & Missions Committee	Kellie Johnson & Charlie Wilkens	Mike Quady	Eric Ellwoods	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
1/25	NA-Annual Meeting & Potluck	Elaine Thole & Kathy Quady	Eric Ellwoods	Mike Quady	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike
2/1	Worship & Music & Personnel Committees	Kellie Johnson & Elaine Thole	Larry Janski	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike

Supervisor & Event Cleaner Needed

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

8-9AM & 1PM-5:30PM

- EARN \$25 FOR SUPERVISING OUR CHURCH
 - EARN \$125 FOR CLEANING FOLLOWING THE EVENT, 2/11/26 AFTER 5:30PM
- serious inquiries made to Christy in the office

LOOKING FOR BUILDING SUPERVISORS & EVENT CLEANERS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS. PLEASE LET CHRISTY KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!

Thank You!

SESSION SUMMARY

Highlights of the December 16 Stated Session Meeting and the December 14 Special Congregational Meeting



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

Session approves draft budget for 2026

The Session approved a draft budget for 2026. The spending plan is the one that the congregation reviewed at a Special Congregational Meeting on December 14. The budget includes expenditures of \$204,000 and income of \$207,000. Treasurer Mandy Harkess also updated the Session on the stewardship campaign for 2026.

Although the number of pledges was down, the pledged income was up. As of mid-December, 29 pledges had been received totalling \$150,000. That compares to 31 pledges received last year for a total of just under \$143,000. Pledged giving was up more than 5% this year.

Elders will approve the 2026 budget in January when all 2025 spending has been recorded and the final

stewardship numbers are in. The Session is extremely grateful for the continued financial support of our members and friends.

Congregation approves pastor's terms of call

At a Special Congregational meeting on December 14, the congregation approved Pastor Entz's Terms of Call for 2026. The 2026 budget calls for a three percent pay increase for the pastor, administrative assistant, choir director, and organist.

Communion days set, clerk and treasurer re-elected

Communion dates for the coming year will be on the first Sunday of every month except September (second Sunday). The Lord's supper will also be celebrated on Maundy Thursday (April 5), Easter Sunday (April 2) and

Christmas Eve. The Session re-elected Mike Quady as Clerk of Session and Mandy Harkess as Church Treasurer for 2026.

Annual meeting set for January 25

The congregation will review church committee reports and the 2026 budget at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 25, following worship. The Session will also be discussing "Project Regeneration" as we focus on our mission and ministry and how it might change in the future. There will be a potluck dinner after the meeting.

Session ~ Meets Monthly on the 3rd 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 3rd Monday at 5pm

Diane Ellis
Kellie Johnson
Michele Lawlor
Joan Lowe ~ Treasurer
Lavina Pattee
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

Buffalo Presbyterian Church



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