



BUFFALO Presbyterian CHURCH



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Classes, Coffee, & Conversations

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Art of Storytelling

Mystery Dinner

The Fellowship Committee is back at it, hosting another Mystery Dinner at 6:00 pm on Saturday, April 20 in the Fellowship Hall. Last year's Mystery Dinner was a howling success and you won't want to miss this year's version. What is a Mystery Dinner? Well, if we told you, it wouldn't be a mystery, right? What we will tell you is that you will have plenty of food, fun and fellowship at this 4-course dinner.

Because this dinner involves quite a bit of preparation and people, **you must sign up in advance.** The deadline for signing up is Wednesday, April 17. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex at church, or you can call Christy in the church office at 682-2773. Walk-ins will not be accepted at the dinner. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will help defray the costs of the dinner.



More Than We Can Imagine

It's time to start thinking about Synod School! This annual gathering will take place on the campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake Iowa from July 21-26. Synod School is an all ages conference with worship, classes, and activities for all ages and interests. Here is the link for more information and to register,

<https://lakesandprairies.org/eng/aging-leaders/synod-school/>

There are some scholarships available through the Synod and the Session has made \$100 scholarships available for BPC folks. Please talk to Pastor Brian for more information. If you have questions about what Synod School is like you may contact Mike and Kathy Quady. Registration is now open.



We hope you enjoy our monthly newsletter, **The New Times.**

For comments and suggestions, please contact the BPC office.



We live in a noisy world. TV, Radio, podcasts, phone calls, music, every single phone app and notification under the sun, all create noise in our lives. Noise is so present that when we experience a moment of silence it can be as unsettling as it is refreshing. Many of us have become so acclimated to the noise that we don't know what to do without it. Yet silence is an incredibly important part of the spiritual life. It is in silence that we often become aware of God's presence and are able to hear God speak. This was certainly the case for the prophet Elijah.

11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake,

12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" -1 Kings 19:11-13

Here we see that it was only in the silence, not in the noise of rocks breaking and winds blowing, that Elijah could hear God speak. Many theologians and spiritually mature people make the link between knowledge of God and knowledge of self.

Without knowledge of self there is no knowledge of God. -John Calvin

Knowledge of self can be a reason that we avoid silence, for when we tune out the noise of life we become aware of those deep thoughts and feelings within ourselves that we have been trying so hard to avoid. When we engage those thoughts and feelings we learn more about ourselves, which in turn helps us better know and hear God.

The spiritual life will only grow so deep unless we regularly practice silence, but silence in the spiritual sense isn't primarily the lack of auditory sounds. Silence is an inner stillness and attention that allows us to be present to the moment, one's self, and God. In this way it is possible to practice silence on a busy city street, just as there can be a lot of noise (mentally and emotionally) in a room with no audible sound at all.

Practicing silence often begins by taking time to turn off the auditory and visual stimulation in our lives. That means turning off the TV and Radio, putting down the cell phone, and closing the computer. It is only when we give ourselves space that we can begin to listen to God and our own thoughts and feelings. Silence takes practice and dedication, especially in our noisy world. The noisiness of the world is precisely why silence is so important and so needed in order to foster a healthy relationship with God and one's self.

Practicing silence is not always easy for me, but I have had enough experience with it to know of its importance in cultivating a healthy spiritual life,

that is a deep knowledge of God and God's presence. I encourage you to take time for silence each day. If you are already doing that, wonderful, keep it up. If you aren't, take 5 minutes each day, shut off the noise and listen, to your own heart and for God's voice. It's a practice of dedication, which means you may not see results immediately, but it is worth it.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Brian

Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth! -Ps. 46:10

Missions

Red Cross Blood Drive

Blood drive was successful. 58 units of lifesaving blood was collected, 12 OVER GOAL! Thank you so much!
Our next blood drive is August 14th from 12:00-6:00pm

Free Community Breakfast

We served 39 from the community and 18 workers. It was a great first time!

Community Garden

The Garden will likely open in the 2nd week of May. We are planning on a \$25 suggested fee due to water usage. We can't count on rainfall based on the past couple summers. There is also a planned 2 plot limit per gardener.

Some raised beds will be made in house and placed along the sidewalk on the southeast corner of the building. These will be made available to those with mobility and health challenges that might keep them from otherwise gardening. Mike has a design in mind and is finding volunteers to help build them.

Master Gardeners Class

This is planned for April 30th at 7pm. Watch for more details!

Pentecost Offering: April 1st– May 19th

Help build a foundation of faith in our youth which will last a lifetime.

40% stays with our congregation

25% support Young Adult Volunteers

25% supports Ministries with Youth

10% is devoted to children at-risk

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

John 13:34



April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	01 6:30P GIRL SCOUTS 6:30P PRAYER SHAWL GROUP 7P AA	02 9A CRAFTY LADIES 9A MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30P FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE MTG	03 7P ADULT CHOIR	04 7:30A PEOPLE OF FAITH 10A WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30P RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP 7P COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MTG	05	06
07 9:30A WORSHIP W/COMMUNION 10:30A CCC	08 12P DRIVERS IMPROVEMENT 5:30P FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MTG 6:30P PEO 7P AA	09 9A CRAFTY LADIES 9A MEN'S BREAKFAST 12P DRIVERS IMPROVEMENT 5P MISSIONS COMMITTEE MTG 6:30P FINANCE COMMITTEE MTG	10 7P ADULT CHOIR	11 7:30A PEOPLE OF FAITH 10A WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30P RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	12	13
14 9:30A WORSHIP 10:30A CCC 4P WESTEND YOUTH GROUP	15 4:30P DEACONS MTG 6:30P GIRL SCOUTS 7P AA	16 9A CRAFTY LADIES 9A MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30P SESSION	17 7P ADULT CHOIR	18 7:30A PEOPLE OF FAITH 10A WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30P RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	19	20 6P MYSTERY DINNER
21 8:30A 150TH PLANNING MTG 9:30A WORSHIP 10:30A CCC	22 7P AA	23 9A CRAFTY LADIES 9A MEN'S BREAKFAST 7P SPOT	24 7P ADULT CHOIR	25 7:30A PEOPLE OF FAITH 10A WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30P RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP	26	27
28 9:30A WORSHIP 10:30A CCC	29 7P AA	30 9A CRAFTY LADIES 9A MEN'S BREAKFAST 7P MASTER GARDENERS CLASS	01	02	03	04

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.

Psalm 98 says, “Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.” Psalm 96 says “Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all the earth.” Notice in Psalm 96 it says Sing to the Lord ALL the earth”, not just those that think they have a good voice. SPOT will discuss the spiritual bene-

fits of singing together in worship. Come listen and sing some hymns and enjoy the benefits of singing together. This session will be led by Ralph Johansen and Mike Agre.



Racial Justice Reading Group

NEW BOOK STARTING IN APRIL

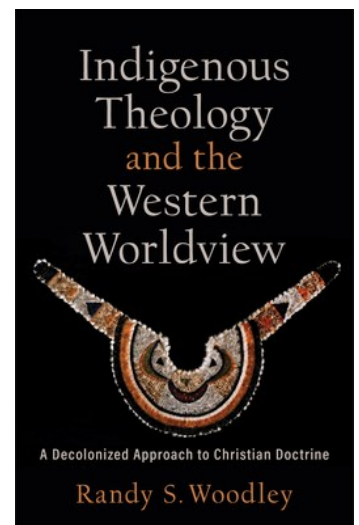
This volume by a Cherokee teacher, former pastor, missiologist, and historian brings Indigenous theology into conversation with Western approaches to history and theology.

Written in an accessible, conversational style that incorporates numerous stories and questions, this book exposes the weaknesses of a Western worldview through a personal engagement with Indigenous theology. Randy Woodley critiques the worldview that undergirds the North American church by dismantling assumptions regarding early North American histories and civilizations,

offering a comparative analysis of worldviews, and demonstrating a decolonized approach to Christian theology.

Woodley explains that Western theology has settled for a particular view of God and has perpetuated that basic view for hundreds of years, but Indigenous theology originates from a completely different DNA. Instead of beginning with God-

created humanity, it begins with God-created place. Instead of emphasizing individualism, it emphasizes a corporateness that encompasses the whole community of creation. And instead of being about the next world, it is about the tangibility of our lived experiences in this present world. The book encourages readers to reject the many problematic aspects of the Western worldview and to convert to a worldview that is closer to that of both Indigenous traditions and Jesus.



April Volunteer Schedule

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

Women of Faith 10am



NEW BOOK STARTING IN APRIL

In the Spring quarter, we explore the fullness of faith as a response to God’s desire to be in relationship with us.

Unit I, “Faith-FULL Versus Faith-LESS”

Unit II, “The Measure of Faith”

Unit III, “The Standing in the Faith”



To give online, please scan the QR code.

New Westend Youth Group

BPC is partnering with Calvin, Plymouth, Maple Plain, and Howard Lake Presbyterian Churches to create new opportunities for our combined youth to build relationships with one another and to grow in their relationship with God. The newly formed Westend Youth Group will have its first event on Sunday, April 14th at Delano Lanes from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. The cost will be \$10/person for two games and shoe rental. Pizza and soda will be provided. Please let Pastor Brian know by April 7th if you plan to attend or if you have questions. We hope to see you there and look forward to the first Westend Youth Event !



Session Summary

Highlights of the March Stated Meeting

SESSION WILL REVIEW, REVISE, AND WRITE POLICIES

The committees of the Session will begin a process of reviewing and revising current church policies. The committees may also recommend creating new policies. The PC(USA) requires that all churches have particular policies in place and the Session wants to be in compliance with those standards. The policies that will be reviewed include the Building Use Policy, Bylaws of Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Child Protection Policy, Employee Policy

Manual, Gift Acceptance Policy, and the Sexual Misconduct Policy. Additional policies may be created to comply with denominational requirements. Some procedures will be reviewed and updated as well.

EXPLORATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY SALE MOVES FORWARD

The Session is continuing to explore the sale of a piece of property on the southwest corner of the

church's land. Elders are looking at possible uses for the property, land valuation, costs of various options to prepare the land for sale. The Session will host a Coffee, Classes, and Conversation (CCC) session on May 5 to gather more input and share the work that's been done. BPC member and Buffalo City Planner Steve Gritman will be there to answer questions and discuss options. Sale of the property will require both congregational



approval and approval of the presbytery's Board of Trustees.

COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY SHARED WITH SESSION

In January seventeen people participated in a survey about our church's communications. The Communications Committee shared the results with the Session. This spring the congregation will get a chance to see the survey and discuss it at a CCC session after church.

Session

Meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30pm

Theresa Bevilacqua
Don Eddy
Jill Gatzke
Larry Janski
Ralph Johansen
Chuck Klaassen
Mary Markve-Patch
Kathy Quady
Mike Quady
Pastor Brian Entz

Finance Committee
Building & Grounds Committee
Missions Committee
Communications Committee
Worship & Music Committee
Fellowship Committee
Faith Formation Committee
Personnel Committee
Clerk of Session
Moderator

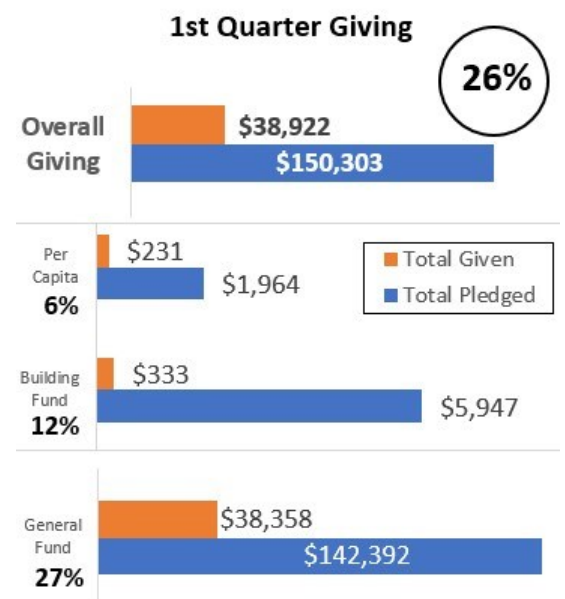
Board of Deacons

Meets monthly on the third Monday at 4:30pm

Diane Ellis*
Barb Janski*
Liz Klaassen
Michele Lawlor
Joan Lowe

* Deacon Treasurer

From our Treasurer





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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