

THE NEW TIMES

November 2023



BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NEW TIMES



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

Classes, Coffee, and Conversations

November 5

TED Talk from Brene Brown with Cindy Doth

November 12

Bible Study with Pastor Brian

November 19

Conversation-To-Go

November 26

Deck the Halls

December 3

Presbyterian Disaster Hygiene Kits

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Holy Wells have a long tradition in the spiritual life of people in Great Britain and Ireland. They are places where people have made pilgrimage for centuries seeking healing, forgiveness, or spiritual renewal from the waters. People would often leave a token of thanks, such as a coin dropped into the well or a cootie (a piece of cloth) tied to the branch of a nearby tree. Many wells were associated with a particular saint and on that saint's feast day the first person to drink

from the well, getting the cream of the well (a reference to skimming the cream off the top of milk), the best water that would bless the drinker with special favor and healing. Some of the wells continue to draw pilgrims, even with the growth in secularization.

Wells also have an important part to play in many Biblical stories, as places of meeting, often divinely inspired. Abraham's servant found a wife (Rebecca) for Issac at a well in Nahor. Jacob met his wife, Rachel, at a well. Moses met his wife, Zipporah, at a well in Midian after fleeing Egypt. Perhaps the most well remembered story in scripture is Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at a well.

4 *Jesus had to go through Samaria. 5 He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.*

7 *A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." -John 4:4-7*

In the Bible the well ends up being a place for more than a drink of water. As we've seen, several ancient patriarchs ended up meeting their wives at wells and Jesus met a woman who would go on to be one of his early followers. These wells become a location for an encounter that goes on to have life changing ramifications. In particular the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman turns out to be life changing for her. In her conversation with Jesus she hears him tell her all about her life and in so doing he offers her living water, which after drinking she will never thirst again. She goes on to proclaim to everyone in town that she has met Jesus.

The living water Jesus offers her is equally offered to us all, for Jesus is the living water and all who place their faith in him have their life in him. In baptism we die to sin in his death and are raised to new life with Jesus in his resurrection. As the holy wells of Britain and Ireland have been places where people seek healing, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal, Jesus is the true and ultimate well for us and for all people. Unlike the holy wells where only the first to drink would get the "cream of the well" all who drink of Christ are recipients of his life. Thus we who have drank can go just as the Samaritan woman and invite others to come and drink. As Christians we are called not only to drink from the well that is Christ, but also to invite others to come and drink, showing them the way.

May we drink deeply of Christ the living water and then show others where to drink as well.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian





ANNUAL CRAFT & BAKE SALE: NOVEMBER 4TH FROM 9AM TO 3PM

Come join us to get a great start to your holiday shopping! All the proceeds will be going to local missions.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Please watch for more information regarding Adopt-a-Family.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE RESPONDS TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE

As violence escalates in and around Israel/Palestine, PDA is providing humanitarian assistance through partners on the ground and through ACT Alliance. PDA has approved solidarity grants and will continue supporting our partners providing humanitarian assistance. Our response efforts will encompass a wide array of vital humanitarian interventions, including but not limited to medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items and delivering crucial psychosocial support to individuals. If you are interested in supporting their response, please use this link [DR000081-Israel/Palestine](https://www.dr000081-israel/palestine)

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering are sharing our love with the leaders of the church-past, present, and future . 50% of this Offering makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The other 50% help assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. This offering will be collected at our Christmas Eve Service, December 24th. If you would like to donate with a credit card online, please go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Love INC Volunteers Needed: We need you! Join the team at the Love INC Thrift Store. Talk to Mary or Karen at the store or call 763-682-8820.

Buffalo Food Shelf: Please see Joan Lowe if you are interested in volunteering.

PLEDGE CARDS

2024 Stewardship Pledge Cards have been mailed out. If you need another one, please see Christy in the office. Thank you!

November 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:00p Adult Choir	2 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group 7:00p Communications Committee Meeting	3	4 9:00a Craft & Bake Sale
5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 9:30a Worship 10:30a Coffee & Conversations—TED Talk from Brene Brown led by Cindy Doth	6 6:30p Prayer Shawl Group 7:00p AA Meeting	7 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 7:00p Faith Formation Committee Meeting	8 6:00p Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00p Adult Choir	9 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	10	11
12 9:30a Worship 10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-Pastor Brian 11:30a Deacons Pack Care Packages	13 5:30p Fellowship Committee Meeting 6:30p PEO 7:00p AA Meeting	14 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 5:00p Missions Committee Meeting 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting	15 7:00p Adult Choir	16 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	17	18
19 8:30a 150th Planning Meeting 9:30a Worship 10:30a Classes, Coffee & Conversations-Conversation-To-Go	20 7:00p AA Meeting	21 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast 6:30p Session	22 7:30p Community Thanksgiving Service	23 THANKSGIVING 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group	24	25
26 9:30a Worship 10:30a Deck the Halls	27 7:00p AA Meeting	28 9:00a Crafty Ladies 9:00a Men's Breakfast	29 7:00p Adult Choir	30 7:30a People of Faith 10:00a Women of Faith 5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group		

SPOT

Spiritual
Practices of
Today

Saturday
December 2
10:00 am



ADVENT DEVOTIONS AND PRACTICES

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.

Our last Spiritual Practices of Today of 2023 will be on Saturday Dec. 2nd at 10am. We'll focus on some common Advent spiritual practices that can be done individually or as a household/group. Join us as we begin preparing for the celebration of Christ's birth!

Please watch for more information about the upcoming January SPOT!



November Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Building Cleaning	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers
11/5	Diane Ellis	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Chuck Klaassen	Eric Ellwoods	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike
11/12	Becky & Don Eddy	Dave & Jean Johnson	Mike Quady/ Al DeBellis	Ashton Olsen	Chuck Klaassen	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike
11/19	Becky & Don Eddy	Marlene Aldrich/ Linda Shebiel	Elaine Thole/ Charlie Wilkens	Larry Janski	Mike Quady	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike
11/26	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Lois Lindstrom/ Elaine Thole	Larry Janski/ Liz Klaassen	Mike Quady	Eric Ellwoods	Kathy Quady & Kevin Spike
12/3	Liz & Chuck Klaassen	Michele Lawlor/ Mary Markve-Patch	Larry Pattee/ Kathy Quady	Barb Janski	Chuck Klaassen	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike

Community Thanksgiving Service

Buffalo is once again having the Community Thanksgiving Service. It will be on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at Zion Lutheran in Buffalo at 7:30 pm. If you or someone you know is interested in singing in the choir, please come and join us at Buffalo Presbyterian Church. We would love to include your voices. There are only 4 songs. You don't need to be at all rehearsals to participate. We will rehearse the songs at BPC on Wed, Nov 8th and Nov 15th at 7:30 pm. There will be a rehearsal at Zion Lutheran on Sunday, Nov 19 at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

We are looking for 6 to 8 Ushers to help with this service! Please let Christy know if you are able to Usher.



Session Summary

Highlights of the October 17 Stated Meeting

Special Congregational Meeting set for December 3

The PC(USA) Book of Order states that the church's congregation must annually review the adequacy of the staff's compensation, approve the minister's term of call, and have the opportunity to comment on the church's annual (2024) budget. The Session's practice has been to take up those three items at a special congregational meeting each December. Based on actions at the meeting the Session will be able to approve a final budget in December. This year's meeting will be Sunday, December 3, at 10:30 am following worship.

Stewardship campaign culminates with November 12 "Pledge Sunday"

The Finance Committee presented plans for this year's stewardship campaign which began on October 22.

The mechanics of the campaign will be similar to past years' but the focus is different. The campaign will focus on supporting our wide array of excellent programs, ministries, and missions. We are not contributing not to the budget but to the work of this church. We may be small but we can do mighty things. Pastor Brian, Treasurer Mandy Harkess, and Clerk Mike Quady attended the PC(USA)'s Stewardship Kaleidoscope in Minneapolis in late September. What they learned is reflected not only in this year's campaign but will also influence plans in 2024 as we look at a more holistic approach to stewardship.

Session decides against political groups using church facilities

The Session passed a motion that "Buffalo Presbyterian Church will not allow rental of its building and grounds to any group that the Session deems to be political in nature." The action came following a discussion on a request by the local Democratic Socialists of America chapter to use the church for meetings. Elders decided that approving such a request would make it possible for any political organization to make building requests. Those requests could be problematic to a congregation which values a variety of viewpoints.



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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