



Buffalo United Methodist Church



January 2017

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It seems funny to be typing "2017" before I have to make the change. Usually I can be counted on to write in the wrong year at least twice, not always in January! Occasionally it creeps up on me in July, when I am least expecting it.

The same thing sometimes happens to me in my faith life. I have an established routine of prayer, study, and reflection and then - Oops!! All of a sudden, when I am least expecting it, an empty space has crept in. A distance is there between God and me. It always jolts me when I realize it, and then I have to look at why it is happening. It is never God who has moved away, only me. Sometimes it's boredom and routine, and I need to find a way to liven things up so I'm paying closer attention to my relationship with Him. I find that reading a book about someone else will help, or choosing a different time or place to pray will shake me out of my rut. The outdoors always seems to work for me. It's hard not to feel close to our Creator in nature.

Sometimes there is a problem or a question underlying that empty space. Then I have to search my heart until I figure out why I quit hearing God's half of our conversation. I find myself asking for pardon because I've failed someone or let myself down by not doing my very best for God. Sometimes it's because there is a major question that I will never know the answer to: Why do good people get hurt? Why do some countries bear the brunt of natural disasters or wars, and others don't? What do I do with my anger when I am angry at God? Is it wrong to be comfortable and happy when there are so many things wrong in the world? Trusting that the answer is there even if I don't understand it is sometimes more than I can do.

I find that repetition helps. "Fake it until you can make it" was one of the pieces of advice that John Wesley got from a mentor. I have to keep praying, keep studying, keep pretending, until it becomes real again. One of the agonies of Mother Theresa's later years was the distance she felt from God. She had lost that luminous faith that inspired her. But she never gave up on her faith routine - she prayed, studied, acted, as if she were in constant connection with her Father. No one ever said it was easy, but it can be done. Sometimes an exercise routine feels great; other times it's just one more thing to do.

The spiritual disciplines - prayer, reading Scripture, doing good works, fasting, sacrificial giving, being a part of a congregation, communing, meditation - are all ways of building structure into our faith. We can rely on the structure and habits to hold us up when we're not feeling it. One of our goals this year as a congregation is to improve in the spiritual disciplines - understanding what they are, practicing them, and encouraging others. Please begin this new year by thinking and praying about ways you can personally improve the scaffolding of your faith. Let's explore them together this year in our worship, small groups, and personal experiences.

Pastor Kathryn

Delivering Backpacks to Garfield:

Backpacks continue to be delivered weekly. **Thanks** for the hats, gloves, socks, toothbrushes and underwear.

United Methodist Women

Come join us Thursday, January 19th at 9:30 p.m. After a short business meeting Marlene Himes will share the program.

Buffalo UMC Upcoming Event Dates for 2017:

Pancake Breakfast - March 25
Yard Sale – Thursday June 8th & June 9th
Ice Cream Social - July 15th.
Fall Bazaar – October 14
Trunk or Treat - October 29

Bertram UMC Upcoming Event Dates for 2016-2017

Pancake Breakfast – February 25
Spring Supper – April 22
Homecoming – August 19
Fall Supper – October 1

Christmas Dinner will be January 22, 2017.

Menu is as follows:

Roast beef, Roast turkey, Party potatoes, Corn, Lettuce salad with dressings, Rolls and butter.

We will furnish the beverages and desserts.

The cost is \$13 payable to Buffalo UMC. Chris Gochenouer is collecting the money for the dinner.

Popping Corn at Garfield

The next popping date is Friday, January 20th at 8 a.m. Four volunteers are needed to open bags, bag the popcorn and deliver the ordered popcorn to the classrooms. Usually takes about 2 hours. If you are interested and would like to help - talk to the popcorn maker, Marlene Himes, or Chris Gochenouer (363-5000).

Joys and Thanks:

- Thanks to everyone who brought items for the Reverse Advent Baskets. Thanks to Nancy C. & Sheryl A. for delivering the goods to area food banks after Christmas.
- Thanks for donating candy for the Christmas Eve treat bags. Fred and Marlene Himes furnish the oranges, apples and peanuts every year!



Golden Age Potluck

Come join us on Thursday, January 12th at 11:30 a.m. at the Buffalo UMC for fellowship and good food! Bring a friend(s) and a dish to share. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Please bring a \$3 to \$5 gift to share for a gift exchange.



Christmas Dinner: Sunday, January 22 @ 12:15 pm. Please bring a \$3 to \$5 gift or a white elephant gift to exchange after dinner.

One Day at a Time

We worry about our tomorrows
Oft missing the joys of today
Troubled about what may happen
Yet tomorrow, may not come our way.
Life's pathway is ever uncertain
"Right now" is what's yours and mine.
The future is safe in God's keeping.
We can live but one day at a time.

Gert Holaday

Upcoming Offerings for 2017 January

Human Relations Day strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.



Bertram & Buffalo United Methodist Churches continue to support the ministries of the Mission of Hope. They will be serving lunch 11:30 A.M. – 1:30P.M. on January 3rd 2017.

Caroling and Soup Lunch

Because of the frigid weather on Sunday, December 18th we plan to go caroling after church one warmer Sunday in January. Sheryl Arnett will share the new date in her "Joys and Concerns" Sunday letter

Prayers of Healing for all who have health problems or problems of the spirit. We continue to miss some of our church family such as Mary Lou Stepanek, Jim Maish, Don and Becky Durand and Rose Schloss. Hopefully they know we miss them and wish them well.



Cleaning: Monday, January 9th at 9 a.m.

A special prayer for our young people. Life is such a struggle in this day and age. May they find their way in life and have all the happiness and success they deserve.



January 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 AM Buffalo UMC Worship	2	3 Mission of Hope 11:30- 1:30PM	4	5	6 Char Stanford BD	7
8 8:45 AM Buffalo UMC Worship Ward Seufferlein BD	9	10	11	12 Golden Age Potluck 11:30 AM	13	14 Hep Hentrich B
15 8:45 AM Buffalo UMC Worship	16	17	18 UMW 9:30AM	19	20	21
22 8:45 AM Buffalo UMC Worship Sheryl Arnett BD	23	24	25	26 NOOMA Video Bible Study 9:30AM	27	28
29 8:45 AM Buffalo UMC Worship	30	31	Notes: Feb 3 rd Mary Lou Stepanek BD, Feb. 4 th Luke Kelley BD			



Thank you

A thank you to all of the ones that work so hard to keep the church going. There is so much behind the scenes jobs that need to be done. We could not do it without them.

Remember we now have a Facebook page. It is called Buffalo United Methodist Church. It is a good way to keep in touch with what is going on with the church. Don't hesitate to put on any news you might have.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1192792444092651/>

Buffalo UMC Website:

Take time to see the new Buffalo website. If you are typing in the address, keep in mind there are no spaces, all the pieces joined together in one single "word" (including colon, backslashes, and periods): <http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>

Please contact Bob Marris (email: rmarris@coe.edu) if you encounter any problems, errors, spelling mistakes, oversights, etc. There are still problems with the "Ministries" page and the calendar. Bob is working on a "Recipes" page and creating a Facebook link. He has started a "Bison Blog," providing a space where members can post various kinds of messages on church/religious/spiritual issues. To keep it interesting, we all need to participate.