



# BUFFALO *Presbyterian* CHURCH



Inside this issue:

<i>Missions</i>	3
<i>Calendar</i>	4
<i>Volunteers</i>	6
<i>Session</i>	7

### *Classes, Coffee, & Conversations*

#### December 1

Deck the Halls &  
Chili Feed

#### December 8

Congregational Meeting  
& 150th Planning  
Update

#### December 15

Pastor Brian

#### December 22

Coffee & Treats

#### December 29

Coffee & Treats

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

For comments and  
suggestions, please  
contact the BPC office.





## The Blessings of Darkness

though is that to relegate the darkness to always being bad or negative removes from it the pregnant possibility it so often nurtures.

When thinking of darkness we often think of fearful, negative, or even evil things. Our society often equates dark with bad and light with good, most notably in anti-Black racism that has been a part of our culture for hundreds of years. Some of these perceptions of darkness as scary are completely understandable, as children how many of us were afraid of the dark? I know I was. Some adults still get scared when the sun sets and the lights go out.

This time of year often brings with it more dark and light imagery, whether in the candles of an Advent wreath, the lights on a Christmas tree, or the illumination of a Hanukkah menorah. The cheer and warmth that lights and flames bring on the cold dark winter nights are worth tending as they often guide us through some hard days and nights. The problem

In scripture we see multiple instances, spoken or unspoken, where blessing, covenant, and life are given. In Genesis Jacob wrestled with a figure, who we learn was in fact God, all night and in the darkness right before dawn Jacob demands a blessing from God and it is given.

Many times throughout the Hebrew scriptures we see God appear shrouded in cloud. We see this when God comes to the Israelites on Mount Sinai and then again when God fills the newly built temple in 1st Kings.

*And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.*

*Then Solomon said,*

*“The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. -1 Kings 8:10-12*

In these instances God appears and is said to live in darkness, the clouds in which God comes are so dense that light does not penetrate them, yet it is from that darkness that God makes and keeps covenant with God’s people.

God resides in darkness in a different and uniquely human way when God incarnates in Mary’s womb. In the gentle darkness of Mary’s belly God grows and develops in the person of Jesus. Once again Jesus takes hold of life in the darkness when early on Easter morning he rises from death in the dark of the garden tomb, soon to be opened and emptied. It is in the dark that life is given, both for Jesus but also for us. Just as Jesus grew and gained life in Mary’s womb, so each of us came to life in the wombs of our moth-

ers. Just as Jesus rose from death in the dark of a tomb, so too will we one day rise to new life.

These and other scripture passages show us the possibility of the darkness to nurture, grow, and aid us in life. Darkness has so much to offer, it need not be our constant enemy, for to make it so is to write it off as scary, less than, and downright evil.

The dark can be a place where life and creativity are nurtured. The dark can be a place of promise and blessing. The dark can be a place of beauty and rest. So as the days get shorter and the dark of night lengthens, may you learn not to fear the darkness, but instead to embrace it as teacher, shelter, and place of possibility.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

*“The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. -1 Kings 8:10-12*

## Missions

### *Rivers of Hope Gift Cards*

Please drop off gift cards into the office drop box by Wednesday, December 4th.

### *Adopt-a-Family*

We have our Adopt a Family shopping list. Please use the link below to mark what you would like to purchase for this family. All items need to be at BPC by December 8th. Also, please have the gift receipts for any sizing issues. Thank you for your generosity!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4AAAA72AA3FDCE9-53528252-adopt>

### *Craft & Bake Sale*

We have received \$7,831.03 so far from the Craft and Bake Sale!! An amazing outcome!!

### *Christmas Joy Offering*

Your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering make a huge difference in the lives of our leaders — past, present and future. This offering provides assistance to current workers and their families in their time of need, and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian –related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. To give online go to [pcu-sa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcu-sa.org/christmasjoy) or text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999. We will also be collecting this offering on December 22nd.

### *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*

Are you looking for a unique gift this year? Check out the Presbyterian Giving Catalog! There are several gifts to choose from! To give online: [presbyteriangifts.org](http://presbyteriangifts.org) or see the catalogs in the narthex.

### *Community Spaghetti Supper*

Join us on January 4th from 4:30pm—6pm for our next Community Spaghetti Supper! We will be looking for volunteers, so watch for a sign up sheet outside the office.



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

**John 13:34**

# December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>01</p> <p>9:30AM WORSHIP W/COMMUNION</p> <p>10:30AM CCC: DECK THE HALLS &amp; CHILI FEED</p>	<p>02</p> <p>6:30PM PRAYER SHAWL GROUP</p>	<p>03</p> <p>9AM CRAFTY LADIES</p> <p>9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST</p> <p>6:30PM FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE MTG</p>	<p>04</p> <p>10:30AM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MTG</p> <p>7PM ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p>05</p> <p>7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH</p> <p>10AM WOMEN OF FAITH</p>	06	07
<p>08</p> <p>9:30AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:30AM CCC: CONGREGATIONAL MTG &amp; 150TH PLANNING UPDATE</p>	<p>09</p> <p>5PM FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MTG</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9AM CRAFTY LADIES</p> <p>9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST</p> <p>5PM MISSIONS COMMITTEE MTG</p> <p>6:30PM FINANCE COMMITTEE MTG</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6PM 150TH PLANNING MTG</p> <p>7PM ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH</p> <p>10AM WOMEN OF FAITH</p> <p>5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>9:30AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:30AM CCC: PASTOR BRIAN</p> <p>11:30AM WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC COMMITTEE MTG</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4PM DEACONS MTG</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9AM CRAFTY LADIES</p> <p>9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST</p> <p>6:30PM SESSION</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7PM ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH</p> <p>10AM WOMEN OF FAITH</p> <p>5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP</p> <p>7PM COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MTG</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>9:30AM WORSHIP: FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS &amp; CAROLS CANTATA</p> <p>10:30AM CCC: COFFEE &amp; TREATS</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i></p> <p>9AM CRAFTY LADIES</p> <p>9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST</p> <p>4PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH</p> <p>10AM WOMEN OF FAITH</p> <p>5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>9:30AM WORSHIP</p> <p>10:30AM CCC: COFFEE &amp; TREATS</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i></p> <p>9AM CRAFTY LADIES</p> <p>9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST</p>	01	02	03	04





Buffalo Presbyterian Church became official on December 10, 1875. There will be many opportunities to honor this 150th anniversary and we want to make sure you have all of them on your calendar! Here is the list of events and a little about each one.

2025 will be a big year for BPC. 150 years and counting!!

150TH ANNIVERSARY:  
SEASON OF CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY  
JULY 27, 2025**

**MUSIC REVUE & KICK OFF**

This will include sharing a commissioned piece of music, both vocal and instrumental. The community will be invited.

**SUNDAY  
AUG. 3, 2025**

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS**

Blessing of backpacks during the worship service. We will have 150 backpacks ready to share with students for the fall school year.

**SATURDAY  
SEPT. 13, 2025**

**COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Invitations will go out to our community and local churches, former pastors, as well as Presbytery.

**SATURDAY  
OCT. 4, 2025**

**COMMUNITY DINNER**

**SUNDAY  
NOV. 9, 2025**

**ORGAN CONCERT  
BY RALPH JOHANSEN**

Open to the community.

**SUNDAY  
DEC. 7, 2025**

**150TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION SUNDAY  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Below is the pledged giving update through the end of November 2024.



**2024 YTD Pledged Giving Update**

	Pledged	Given	%
General Fund	142,392	131,722	93%
Building Fund	5,947	3,611	61%
Per Capita	1,964	1,610	82%

We have also received an additional \$20,217 in Non-Pledged giving to date.

# December Volunteer Schedule

Service Date	Coffee Time	Greeters	Lay Leader	Sound Board	Ushers
12/1	Deck the Halls	Kellie Johnson & Larry Pattee	Barb Janski	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
12/8	Mary Coleman & Linda Shebiel	Charlie Wilkens & Liz Klaassen	Kathy Quady	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
12/15	Michele Lawlor & Mary Markve-Patch	Elaine Thole & Larry Janski	Kellie Johnson	Chuck Klaassen	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
12/22	Dave & Jean Johnson	Kellie Johnson & Larry Pattee	Kathy Quady & Larry Janski	Mike Quady	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
12/24	Christmas Eve				
12/29	Doth Family	Mike & Kathy Quady	Lisa Ellwoods	Eric Ellwoods	Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike
1/5	Fellowship Committee	Charlie Wilkens & Liz Klaassen	Mary Markve-Patch	Chuck Klaassen	Larry Janski & Kevin Spike

*\*We are looking for volunteers for our Christmas Eve Service at 4pm. Please let Christy know if you are interested in helping. Thanks!*

## Coffee Time Changes Starting in January

The Fellowship Committee is excited to announce a new initiative for our Coffee Fellowship Time! Starting in January 2025, our coffee fellowship will be served by various groups and committees within our church. This change will allow different groups to engage with the congregation and foster connections among our members. Our 16 groups and committees will take turns serving coffee and refreshments throughout the year. Each group will be responsible for hosting on their designated Sundays. If a group is unable to serve, they are responsible for finding their own replacements. If there are questions about the coffee maker or dishwasher, we are happy to help and host trainings. The specific rotation schedule will be published in upcoming newsletters and posted in the narthex so keep an eye out for when your group is serving!

**Please let Christy know who would like to receive communications about this in the months ahead.**





**B**uffalo 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.



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### Buffalo Presbyterian Church



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