



BUFFALO *Presbyterian* CHURCH

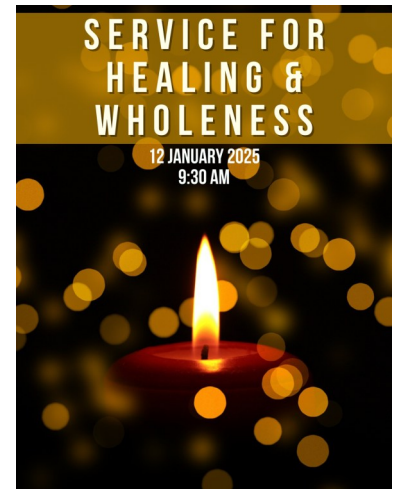


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Service for Healing & Wholeness

Having a difficult winter or holiday season? Come seek the healing and wholeness that God can offer. Join us for our Service for Healing & Wholeness on January 12th at 9:30am.



Classes, Coffee, & Conversations

January 5

New Years led by Pat Olsen

January 12

Conversation-To-Go

January 19

Pastor Brian

January 26

Annual Meeting & Potluck

Annual Meeting & Potluck

Please join us for a Sunday Dinner Potluck in the fellowship hall following the BPC Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th. Bring a dish to share and enjoy yummy food, energizing conversation and great fellowship with other BPC family members and friends. See you then!



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

For comments and suggestions, please contact the BPC office.



Ever since Thanksgiving, since the beginning of Advent, we waited for Christmas, for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Each week we lit another candle in the advent wreath, counting the weeks. We put up Christmas lights and decorations and saw them spring up around town. Presents wrapped in bright colors with festive bows have multiplied under trees. The anticipation grew with each passing day.

Finally Christmas arrived. We worshipped with carols and candlelight welcoming the baby Jesus. We gathered with family and friends around tables of delicious food. We surrounded trees and unwrapped gifts given by loved ones near and far. The Christ candle was lit and Jesus was born in us again!

But now the New Year is upon us. Stores have already taken down their Christmas decorations in preparation for the next holiday. Epiphany (January 6th) approaches and so the end of the 12

Days of Christmas. Soon enough we will take down our trees, unplug our lights, and pack up our stockings we had hung with such care. As society and we put away the signs and symbols of the Christmas celebrations we must be careful not to pack up Jesus with them.

As we and the Church calendar move on from Christmas it's important that we remember that Christ remains in our midst and he goes with us wherever we may go. We "unwrapped" Jesus as we told the story of his birth and remembered the good news of the angels proclaiming a savior born. As we have shared love with one another let us remember that God's love is unending.

Our decorations will be down soon enough and

the tree ornaments will be wrapped up and put away till next year, but let us keep Christ out and unwrapped. Let us carry him with us into the new year and all it brings. Jesus goes before us to prepare our way. Jesus goes with us to encourage and support us day by day. Jesus goes behind us, healing our wounds, forgiving our sins, and carrying our burdens.

As we carry Jesus into the new year we carry him not only for our own sakes, but for the sake of those around us and the whole world. So how will you carry Jesus to the people and into the places that need him most? How will you carry him to those who are sick or lonely, to those who are marginalized and oppressed, to those who are hungry for the love and peace only God can give?

The Magi carried gifts from a far off land to the Christ child, now we get to carry the gift of Christ with us day by day, strengthened by his faithfulness and pointing to his grace.

May you keep Jesus unwrapped and carry the gift of his presence all throughout the new year of 2025.

Christ's Blessings,
Pastor Brian

"Unpacking Jesus"

Missions

Thank You!

Thank you to all that generously gave to the Rivers of Hope Gift Card Drive! We collected 4 Walmart, 4 Target, 1 Kwik Trip, 1 Holiday, and 1 Visa gift cards for their clients!

Thank you to those that gave to Adopt-a-Family this year! This family will be blessed this Christmas season!

Craft & Bake Sale

The total we received for the Craft Sale this year was \$8,158.03!!! The proceeds from this sale will be going to Presbyterian Mission, Clearwater Forest, Buffalo Food Shelf, Wrapped in Love, Rivers of Hope, Love INC, and Parenting With Grace.

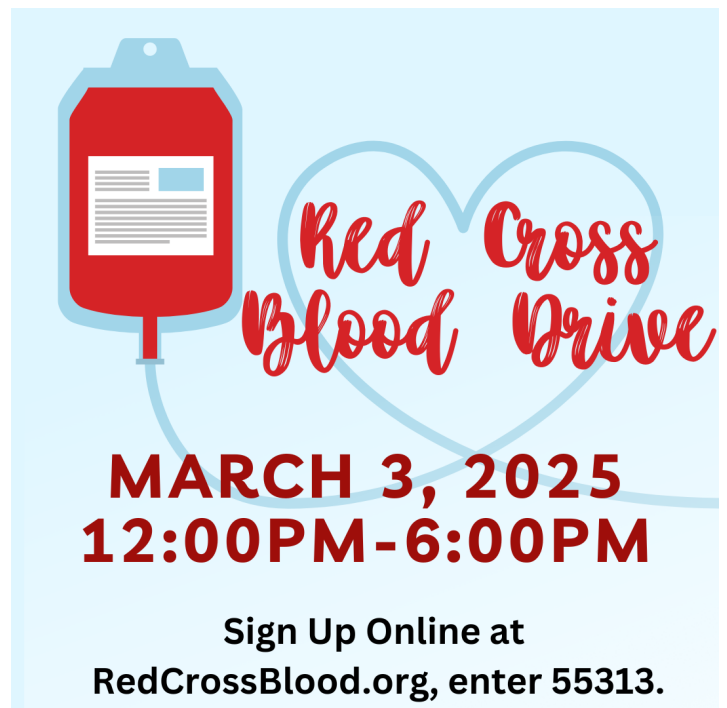
Community Spaghetti Supper

Another spaghetti supper is approaching on January 4th from 4:30pm to 6pm. Please sign up in the narthex if you are interested in helping for this event.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next Blood Drive will be March 3rd from noon to 6pm. Sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org, enter 55313.

Watch for a sign up sheet outside the office for volunteer opportunities!



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

John 13:34

January 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|--|--------|---|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 01 NEW YEARS DAY | 02 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP | 03 | 04 4:30PM COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI SUPPER |
| 05 9:30AM WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION 10:30AM CCC: NEW YEARS LED BY PAT OLSEN | 06 6:30PM PRAYER SHAWL GROUP | 07 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30PM FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE MTG | 08 10:30AM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MTG 7PM ADULT CHOIR | 09 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP | 10 | 11 10AM SPOT: DAILY PRAYER |
| 12 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM CCC: CONVERSATION-TO-GO | 13 5PM FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MTG | 14 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 5PM MISSIONS COMMITTEE MTG 6:30PM FINANCE COMMITTEE MTG | 15 6PM 150TH PLANNING MTG 7PM ADULT CHOIR | 16 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP 7PM COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MTG | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM CCC: PASTOR BRIAN | 20 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY 4PM DEACONS MTG | 21 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST 6:30PM SESSION | 22 7PM ADULT CHOIR | 23 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:30AM WORSHIP 10:30AM CCC: ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK | 27 | 28 9AM CRAFTY LADIES 9AM MEN'S BREAKFAST | 29 7PM ADULT CHOIR | 30 7:30AM PEOPLE OF FAITH 10AM WOMEN OF FAITH 5:30PM RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP | 31 | 01 |

The Spiral of Time: Looking Back and Moving Forward

The definition of a sabbatical is an extended break from work that allows a pastor to focus on something other than their regular job duties. After 7 years of employment, pastors are invited to take a sabbatical.

In 2025, Pastor Brian will be on sabbatical starting around April 29 and returning July 28. The theme he is contemplating is **The Spiral of Time: looking back and moving forward.** Looking back and moving forward offers the opportunity to examine church history, his

family history, and history in general while also contemplating what our faith and the work of the church look like moving forward.

During this time, our congregation is welcome to explore this theme as well and also intersect it with the celebration of our 150th Anniversary. Session has been preparing for this event by setting aside money to cover the 3 months.

A team of representatives will oversee the needs of our congregation. Larry Janski, Session, Barb Janski, Deacon, Ralph Johansen,

Worship & Music; and Kathy Quady, Personnel. Brian and Christy will also help with planning. We will also have support from surrounding pastors as well as Presbytery.

2025 will be a very special year in the life of BPC!!!!

-Personnel Committee

Reminder About Cleaning Up In The Kitchen

Please remember to wipe down all the surfaces in the kitchen after use. Even if you do not see any noticeable crumbs. Help us keep the kitchen clean!! Thank you!



Annual Report Information Deadline January 13th

Please submit your Annual Report Information and any pictures that we could use in the report to Christy by January 13th. We will have printed copies available for you on January 19th and will also email a copy to everyone in the congregation on January 20th.



January Volunteer Schedule

| Service Date | Coffee Time | Greeters | Lay Leader | Sound Board | Ushers |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1/5 | Fellowship Committee | Charlie Wilkens & Liz Klaassen | Mary Markve-Patch | Chuck Klaassen | Larry Janski & Kevin Spike |
| 1/12 | Session | Kellie Johnson & Larry Pattee | Steve Grittmann | Mike Quady | Larry Janski & Kevin Spike |
| 1/19 | Building & Grounds Committee | Mike & Kathy Quady | Chuck Klaassen | Eric Ellwoods | Larry Janski & Kevin Spike |
| 1/26 | NA-Annual Meeting & Potluck | Charlie Wilkens & Elaine Thole | Ashton Olsen | Mike Quady | Larry Janski & Kevin Spike |
| 2/2 | Faith Formation Committee | Kellie Johnson & Larry Janski | Mike Quady | Eric Ellwoods | Dave Johnson & Kevin Spike |

SPOT~Daily Prayer

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. - Psalm 55:17 (KJV)

Since the time of the Old Testament it has been the practice of many Jewish and now also Christian people to pray multiple times a day. Join us on Saturday January 11th at 10am as we explore the spiritual practice of daily prayer. Pastor Brian will introduce a variety of ways this practice can deepen and broaden your relationship with God.

Spiritual Practices Of Today (SPOT) 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.

The poster features a blue background with white and yellow wavy lines. In the top right, a dark blue circle contains the text "SATURDAY JAN. 11, 2025 10 AM". The word "SPOT" is written in large white letters, with "Spiritual Practices of Today" in smaller white text below it. A central circular image shows hands clasped in prayer over an open book. At the bottom, the words "DAILY PRAYER" are written in a bold, sans-serif font.

Session Summary

Highlights of the December 8 Special Congregational Meeting and the December 17 Stated Session Meeting

Congregation reviews budget and approves pastor's terms-of-call

Congregational members commented on the budget, approved the pastor's terms of call, reviewed the adequacy of Buffalo Presbyterian Church's (BPC) staff's compensation, and elected at-large members to the nominating committee at a special congregational meeting on Sunday, December 8, following worship.

Members asked about the projected budget deficit caused by a decrease in

pledged giving. Elder Theresa Bevilacqua and Treasurer Mandy Harkess indicated that at least one major pledge had not yet been received and that the Session would be looking at more up-to-date projected income at their December meeting. The congregation approved Pastor Entz' 2025 terms of call and judged that the remaining staff salaries were adequate. All staff will receive a three-percent wage increase in 2025.

The congregation also elected Eric Ellwoods, Pat

Olsen and Mary Markve-Patch as at-large members to the Nominating Committee. They will be working with an Elder and a Deacon to suggest nominations for openings on the Session and Board of Deacons. **Session approves insurance, budget, and appointments**

Elder Don Eddy presented insurance quotes for 2025. The Session approved continuing with North Star Mutual Insurance. The \$700

increase in premiums was less than the company had earlier projected. The Session also approved a budget for 2025 which was essentially the same as the one presented to the congregation on December 8. Elders agreed that modifications could occur in 2025 if income was not meeting expenditures.

Church Treasurer Mandy Harkess and Clerk Mike Quady were re-appointed to those positions in 2025. Barb Janski and Joan Lowe will continue representing BPC as commissioners to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area. Kathy and Mike Quady will continue as alternate commissioners.

Session

Meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30pm

Theresa Bevilacqua
Cindy Doth
Don Eddy
Larry Janski
Ralph Johansen
Chuck Klaassen
Linda Shebiel
Mike Quady
Pastor Brian Entz

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



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

Board of Deacons

Meets monthly on the third Monday at 4:30pm

Barb Janski*
Liz Klaassen
Michele Lawlor
Joan Lowe
Lavina Pattee
Kathy Quady

* 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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