

MAY 2024

PASTOR’S PRESPECTIVE

The following remarks I made during my sermon on Sunday, March 14, 2024, entitled “New Beginnings”, based on Luke 24:36-48. This message symbolizes where Buffalo Presbyterian Church finds itself today - at a place and time with an *opportunity* for new beginnings. I believe these words are worth repeating and are part of an ongoing conversation we’ll have regarding the revitalization of BPC.

“Churches, like people, move through a life cycle, like ‘stages of life.’ Churches, unlike people, can cycle continuously through church life cycles.

“Churches that survive the test of time, and remain, are re-cycling through stages of ‘incline, recline, and decline.’ Churches that cannot, or will not, move from decline to incline will *eventually no longer exist*.

“I don’t say this to scare, frighten, attack, discourage, or humiliate you, but rather I say this out of my love for you as your new pastor.

“I want to re-commit to you my willingness, and ability, to be able to lead you into our future together. Church revitalization requires time, prayer, and patience.

“Revitalization is the process of BPC moving from decline back to incline. I am committed to helping you restore this church to its former glory!

“The process of revitalization, in which I have training and certification to do for and with churches,

does not mean BPC will necessarily look like it used to look. I’m not talking about the physical structure of this beautiful, historic place. I will absolutely respect your wishes to preserve these facilities. You see, we still have wonderful facilities at our disposal along with a fantastic location in Sanford.

“The changes could be (because we don’t fully know yet), more programmatic; the structure and what we do, and how we do it, in our current world. What I’m really saying at this point is, don’t be afraid of change.

“In fact, it may be more of returning to the basics; things you remember and love! We’ll do this over time and together. We want to bring EVERYONE along with us into our future.

“Will you join Debbie and me to create something new as we experience new beginnings at BPC? Debbie and I can NOT do this alone! We need people who will dream with us; to dream of what could be for the glory of God! “So, I ask you, why can’t BPC be the church people are drawn to come and see?

Rev. Eric Davidson

PRAISE TEAM

Do you enjoy singing? Why not join the Praise Team? We practice on Sunday prior to worship at 10:15 am.

His Spirit in Us

What a beautiful welcome into the month of April. The Ladies have accomplished so much with the Spring Cleaning of the church, The PW Presbytery Spring Gathering, our Bible Study and the PW meeting to plan ahead in this year to have union and productivity at Buffalo.

We have started a quarterly Birthday celebration and our first was very successful, so the next one is scheduled for sometime in June. Date will be announced ahead of time. We welcomed Eric and Debbie to Buffalo with a small reception following worship and refreshments. We are so proud to see what our new Beginnings has for Buffalo.

In April we have the beginning of a new Praise and Worship Service by the ladies of Buffalo led by Debbie. We look forward to expanding our worship at Buffalo thru this service.

We have our plans for the Homecoming in order and we will be able to come together once again to fellowship with old and new and lots of good home cooked food. Please mark your calendar for Sunday May 5th following worship service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall. Encourage your family and friends to attend. The Women voted to present each attendee with a memento of this special event. Come to get yours on that day.

When we come to Christ he puts his Spirit inside of us and the Spirit of the Lord is a Spirit of freedom, love, power and Courage. We can no longer rightfully identify as fearful or timid

people. We cannot act unforgiving towards others, because each of those things go directly against the Spirit that is now dwelling within us. As people of God, we must step forward to live a life that is a visible expression of the invisible God. We have been given full power to love, to be brave and to think soundly. All we have to do is to surrender our own will to God And then His spirit can move freely in us. Then and only then can we see our transformation and those around us.

Thank You God, for putting your Spirit within me. You have given me your power, your love, and a strong mind to do your will and to bring you glory. Help me to remain sensitive to your Spirit so I can represent You well in my life. Amen and God's Blessings

Jan Renwick, Secretary
Buffalo PW

BLANKET SUNDAY

On May 12th, Buffalo Presbyterian will celebrate BLANKET SUNDAY. As a mother's love blankets the world, let us express our love and compassion to provide warmth through a gift of blankets. Please consider your offering by looking at the challenges people are facing in this world today. *And don't forget to do good and share with those in need.*



Hebrews 13:16

REMEMBER WITH LOVE AND PRAYER:

Manuel Bailey, Dr. David Ciliberto, Joe Daniel, Jason Dunigan, Davis Eskridge, Barbara Jo Glass, Miriam Gunter, Geri Hales, Jimmy Holt, George & Brenda Honeycutt, Danny James, Evelyn Johnson, Karen Johnson, Tammy Johnson, Sandie Lemons, Ingrid Luton, Brandon Maness, Rev. Gilbert McDowell, Jeff Renwick, Jeanette Siess, Julie Siess, Peggy Sineath, Karen Smith, Rev. George Walton, Jean Wilberg, Elizabeth Wilmoth



WEEKLY OFFERINGS

April 07, 2024 – \$ 1222.00
April 14, 2024 – \$ 692.00
April 21, 2024 – \$ 507.00



FLOWERS WILL BE PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY THIS MONTH BY THE FOLLOWING:

05/05/24– by Allison Goodwin to the Glory of God.
05/12/23 – by Buffalo Women for Mother's Day
05/19/23 – OPEN
05/26/23 – by Greg Cox in memory of Roy & Nellie Cox

PENTECOST

Pentecost is the day when the disciples received the Holy Spirit. On May 19, wear **RED** to church in remembrance of this day.

HOMECOMING

Just a reminder that Homecoming is this Sunday, May 5th. It will be a special day of celebration. Following worship, we will have a potluck luncheon. Please bring your favorite dish to share with the congregation. The church will provide the meat. Come share food and fellowship with us.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 01st - Joe Daniel
May 07th - James Tart
May 11th - Patrick Kelly
May 13th - Helen Martindale
May 16th - Caitlyn Bridges
May 21st - Larry Collins
May 25th - Lee Setzer
May 26th - Brad Johns
May 26th - Kathy Jolly
May 31st - Carlton Davis



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May 16th Brooks and Pat Kelly
May 21st Daniel and Amy Hart
May 21st Britt and Anna Carpenter

BUFFALO PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Women have decided they are taking the summer off and will resume their Bible Study on September 24th. We plan to meet for lunch this summer so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming announcements.