

DECEMBER 2023

SIGNS OF LIFE

The Burlington United Methodist Church is an inclusive Christian Community, dedicated to growth in Jesus Christ through worship, teaching and service.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th – 7:00 p.m.

(There will be no Sunday morning service.)



Angels Attic Sale

December 2, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Christmas Cookie Drive-Thru

December 9, 2023 10:00 a.m. - Noon

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Burlington United Methodist Church

857 West State Street
Burlington, WI 53105
Phone: 262.763.2288
Fax: 262.763.5208

Email:

churchoffice@burlingtonumc.org

communication@burlingtonumc.org

Website:

www.burlingtonumc.org

Worship Times:

Saturday Praise Service 5:00 PM
Sunday Traditional Service 10:30 AM

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
After Hours: By Appointment

Rev. Stanton Bockwoldt, Pastor

Email:
stanton.bockwoldt@burlingtonumc.org
Phone: 312.636.4427

Church Administrator – Lyann Jung

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Pastor's Thoughts

Greetings,

Well, it's that time of year; the time of the year when I increasingly feel like Ebenezer Scrooge. The reason for this mood? I allow myself to get aggravated by the rampant consumerism that fills our culture (especially the stores) revolving around Christmas. In what should be one of the most sacred times of the year we're inundated with the holy message of "buy, buy, buy!"

The heroes of the season are not wise men or shepherds; an expectant mother or her understanding husband; the shepherds or the angels. No, it seems as though the heroes of this season are a reindeer with rosacea on his nose, a snowman, a furry green meanie, and a jolly old fat man in a red suit (the irony which never escapes me – we tell children to be safe

from strangers and then wait in line so that they can go sit in the lap of a stranger!).

The challenge for me and any of you who may think some similar thoughts is that we cannot allow the "culture" to destroy the season for us. We must keep the real reason for the season at the forefront of our minds. In the midst of all the voices saying, "buy, buy, buy" and "ho, ho, ho" we need to keep our minds, hearts, and ears open for the quiet voice of God; a voice that comes to us in the whispers of family, friends, and the remembrance of a little baby born so long ago.

Maybe, if we can keep the preceding in mind, we can keep Scrooge from working his way into our lives this season.

Until next time,

Pastor Stanton



**17th Annual
Christmas Cookie Sale:
Drive-Thru Event**

**December 9th, 2023
10:00 a.m. – Noon
(Or Sold Out)**

**Burlington United
Methodist Church**

**857 W. State Street
(Circular Drive)**

**Delicious Pre-boxed
Homemade Cookies
by the pound.**

***CASH OR
LOCAL CHECKS
ONLY***

NO PRE-ORDERS





**Christmas Cookie Sale:
Drive-Thru Event
Saturday, December 9th, 2023
10:00 AM to Noon
(Or Sold Out)**

For Cookie Information Contact:

Claudia Williamson – 262.514.4945
Sheila Naus – 262.643.8017
Judy Vande Sande – 262.763.6797 or 262.227.8679

Tuesday – December 5th

10:00 a.m. to Noon

- Cookie Drop Off

Wednesday – December 6th

9:30 a.m.

- Cookie Decorating (All items needed to frost and decorate will be provided!)
- Table Set-up

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Cookie Drop Off

Thursday – December 7th

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- Cookie Drop-Off

Friday – December 8th

9:30 a.m.

- Packaging of Cookies

Lunch will be served on Wednesday and Friday.

If you are unable to drop-off cookies during the time listed above, please contact Claudia Williamson at 262.514.4945. Please sign sheet when you bring them in and be sure to tag your containers. (There are slips in basket by sign-up sheets.)

HELP NEEDED

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area until December 5th! Please sign-up if you can help in any of the areas. It will be greatly appreciated!



VIPs in the Pew

This month we thank Mariana Ecker for sharing her life with us. GOD'S BLESSINGS!

Mariana Ecker

My name is Mariana Ecker. The date today is September 18, 2023. I was born in West Allis, Wisconsin.

I go to the Greendale Middle school, and I'm in sixth grade. My favorite subject, so far, information, technology, and band. I like them because I'm always engaged in their classes that I find exciting. Some of my least favorite subjects, are gym. I do not like gym because it involves a lot of activities that I do not find exciting or engaging.

Some other interests I have are an environmental club and a coding club that I will be participating in this year.

My favorite book so far is *When We Collided*. I found out that I like to read romance books, historical fiction, books, and graphic novels. *When We Collided* is the book, I'm currently reading right now.

If I had to decide what kind of job I would like today, I will decide I want to be environmental scientist to focus on finding a cure for painter's colic for sheep.

Some of my favorite music is from an artist called Olivia Rodrigo. I like her sometimes. Also, the pop music that she creates.

This summer I went to a youth conference in Florida. It was really fun, and I got to experience new people and the ocean, and I had a nice time.

So far at age 11, I have decided that the best thing I've done is go to Ireland and go to the Renaissance fair in Wisconsin and pet sheep.

I am glad I'm back in school, but I'm also a little tired of it. It's a lot of work and a lot of sitting trying your best to be engaged and then there's a point where you're switching classrooms that sometimes can become a little bit of a hassle, but I guess I'm mainly excited that I'm back at school.

My favorite video game is *Minecraft*, and then my favorite TV show is *Growing its World*.

I have my dog, Thor, my dog Bruger, my cat, Cairo, and my cat Phineas.

My favorite food is Crab Rangoon. My favorite color is purple. My favorite animal is the sheep, and I hope to get one when I grow up.

My favorite part about coming to church is being able to sing good and children's time.

I don't usually think adults are weird. I like the rules and how they set out a layout to a point where you know what you're supposed to do and what you're not supposed to do. It has made me a better person and I know that I'm always able to tell my parents anything.

My favorite holiday is Christmas. I love Christmas it is so festive with the lights and I'm able to make cookies and I just have so many wonderful traditions with my family. also, its Jesus's birth.

The best present I've ever gotten is either a new dog or going somewhere out of the country.

If I had one superpower it would be to make the world a better place. I would have the power to grow any plant/tree or a vegetable or fruit in the world, and to have the ability to kill any weeds.

Jubilate Community Singers Christmas Concert December 9th at BUMC



The Jubilate Choir will once again be performing a Christmas Concert here at BUMC. “Favorite Carols and

Songs of the Season”, presented by the singers will be at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 9th. Tickets are \$12.00; children 12 and younger, free. They will also be performing the concert on Sunday December 10th at 4:00 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 417 South Kane Street in Burlington.

Bulletin Board Update

The bulletin board in the Gathering Area is being updated! Please monitor for important



information, such as sign-up sheets, news/notices, and a place for cards, thank you notes,

etc.

If you have items to place on the bulletin board, please contact Lyann Jung in the church office. This will enable announcements, etc. to also be shared in the bulletin, newsletter, website, Facebook, and email. Thank you!



Monday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m. is our **Joint Charge Conference** with English Settlement UMC. This year, the meeting will take place at ESUMC. The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council. All members of the charge conference must be members of the local church. The charge conference must meet at least once per year. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry. (Please note, that while the conference covers the tasks listed above, the work has been done by the church council *prior* to the conference and **church members assemble to vote** on what the church council has presented. **ALL** church members are encouraged to attend.)



Income	Year-To-Date	Budgeted Amount
2023 General Fund Offering	\$94,448.37 (as of 11/20/2023)	\$144,000.00
2023 Apportionment Fund Offering	\$6,078.39	\$24,000.00 <i>This equates to \$17.00/member per month</i>
2023 Prayerful Preservation Building Maintenance & Upkeep Fund	Year-To-Date \$8,870.00 New Balance \$24,596.69	N/A

Please see Lyann Jung in the Church Office if you would like Offering envelopes or information on Electronic Giving. Also, please advise by December 15th if you wish to make any changes to your current electronic offering. Phone: 262.763.2288, communication@burlingtonumc.org

REMINDER: Tax-deductible donations will be accepted until January 7, 2023. However, any checks must be dated December 2023.

Church Ministries



The next “**Ladies Breakfast**” will take place on December 30th at 9:00 a.m. at Pine Street Café in Burlington. No reservation is required.



“**Crocheting with Bev**” will take place every **TUESDAY** at BUMC beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Beginners, experienced, all are welcome! No experience is necessary. Please bring size “J” hook and 4-ply yarn or bring a project you would enjoy working on! Come, learn, exchange ideas, and enjoy the fellowship!

We will meet in the library (if occupied, setup will be in the Crossroads Room).

Questions? Please contact Bev Scott at 262.210.8636.

“**Make It with Myrt**” will take a break until the end of the year. Wait for dates and times starting in the new year! **THANK YOU** to all those that donated sewing machines, fabric, and supplies. Questions? Please contact Myrt Lovrine at 262.763.9954.

Cooks Night Out



This month’s get-together will take place **Thursday, December 14th at 5:30 p.m.** This special evening will

include a “white elephant” gift exchange. (One per person.) In its basic form the game calls for people to bring “gag” gifts or gifts they received that they have no use for. For dinner, we will be making a meal out of appetizers, so please bring your favorite to share. Table service and beverages will be provided. Please contact Judy Vande Sande (262.227.8679) with questions.

Missions Update



On Tuesday, November 7th, **Pastor Siani with New Life Ministries**, India, shared with us an update regarding the 378 families who were displaced due to brutality and persecution, because of being Christians. Thanks to the supporters from around the world (incl. BUMC), these families have since found placement. Pastor Siani also shared a slide presentation of their new Hospital and Orphanage, as well as how life is and the customs of India. He ended with a question-

and-answer session. Thank you Ellingstads, for arranging his visit.

The **Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes** are completed and are at the drop off location, ready for shipment. Thank you, Tom and Linda Gianoni, for delivering our (50) boxes and to all of you who so graciously donated and helped in some way. Again, thanks to Blanche and Joyce for covering the shipping costs, a special thank you to our 8 yr. old Vienna, who helped sort items as well as donated several of her own special toys, and to Myrt's Sewing Ladies for their many handmade clothes, bags and stuffed animals. Thanks to Bev Scott for her crocheted finger puppets and to Sheila Naus for all the beautiful handmade barrettes.

As one of our church members said...."there's hardly room in the box for a toothpick," which tells you how full they all were. Hopefully, the children will be joyfully surprised upon receipt of their gifts. If anyone wishes to track a box, the numbered label receipt will be available for you to scan. Look for these labels in the Gathering area in December. Many THANKS to all for the success of this Mission!

The **JESSE TREE** this year, will be sponsoring TLC (Transitional Living Center), Love, Inc., Life Choices, and the Veterans in Union Grove. Feel free to take as many of the Ornament tags as you wish. Please leave your item(s) in a bag, with the tag attached and **PLACE UNDER TABLE** in Gathering area.

The next **MISSIONS MEETING** is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th @ 3:00 p.m. All are welcome!

For questions or additional information, please contact Donna Reesman, 262.492.2419.

8:57
PRAY

† For personal reasons
† For people you care about
† For your church
† For the gifts God gave you
† For something that may be holding you back



**Burlington
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Church**

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The Administrative Council is currently reading *Flood Gates – Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church* by Sue Nilson Kibbey. One of the “flood gates” discussed is “Breakthrough Prayer Initiative”. The author writes: *For the*

sake of definition, here's what I mean by "Breakthrough Prayer Initiative". It is not just a prayer class, prayer committee, prayer meeting, or sermon series. It's when God's people join together in an intentional prayer movement across all ages to simply and repeatedly pray – either silently or aloud – asking God to break through in new and miraculous ways.

The card above is to remind us to be intentional about prayer. The committee chose "8:57" (our street address), when we can at 8:57 am and 8:57 pm set a reminder and stop to pray.

Cards are available after each service or in the church office. Please feel free to take more than one to pass out to others.

Church Prayers

People of our church who are in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Homes and Homebound need your prayers, cards, letters and visits.



Below are the names of our shut-ins:

Bill & Ginger Campbell c/o Brookdale 429 Yellowstone Dr., Apt. 226, Madison, WI 53719 Phone 608.467.2163

Sally Rubach c/o Hales Corners Care Center, 9449 W. Forest Home Ave. Hales Corners, WI 53130 Phone: 414.529.6888.

Pat Hahn *NEW!* 34201 Arbor Lane, Room 206, Burlington, WI 53105 Phone: 262.758.4004 Patricia_hahn@yahoo.com

Marge Geddes c/o Creamery Creek Assisted Living, 1049 Chicago Avenue, Viroqua, WI 54665

Shirley Kinsey c/o Hamilton House, W76N629 Wauwatosa Road, #210, Cedarburg, WI 53012 Phone: 262.421.8152
Marilou Hensen *NEW!* 2023 Gillen Street, Racine, WI 53403

Prayers for the following people in our church family: Marilou Hensen, Kelly Sizer, Maxine Kubath, Jane Allen, Lina Schaal, Naomi Hensen, Dora Reese

Hospitalized? Please let Pastor Stanton know if you or someone you know from the congregation is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor Stanton. Would you like a home visit? If so, please contact Pastor Stanton to set up a time. Church Office: (262)763-2288. Pastor Stanton Bockwoldt: (312)636-4427, Deanna Barels: (262)763-9713. Please check with Pat Hahn for prison ministries at (262)758.4004. Letters are so appreciated by those who are not able to enjoy freedom.

Celebrations

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11th – Shirley Kinsey

12th – Myrt Lovrine

15th – John Molle

20th – Blanche Molle

22nd – Judy Kerkhoff, Tony Allen

26th – Paige Kerkhoff

27th – Lisa Hernandez

28th – Janice Greeter

29th – Fritz Barels. Cindy Shanebrook, Pat Piper

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1st - Ed & Barbara Johnson

11th – Bill & Ginger Campbell

26th – Dennis Eisenberg & Sally Stoflet

29th – John & Clarie Molle

30th – Eric & Ellen Burling



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2023</h1>					1 <u>World AIDS Day</u> 	2 <u>Praise Service with Holy Communion</u> 5:00 pm
3 <u>Traditional Service with Holy Communion</u> 10:30 am <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	4 <u>Jubilate Choir Practice</u> 7:00-8:45 pm	5 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am-11:30 am <u>Crocheting with Bev</u> 1:30 pm <u>Cookie Drop-Off</u> 10:00-Noon	6 <u>Joint Advent Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm @ ESUMC <u>Cookie Decorating</u> 9:30 am <u>Cookie Drop-Off</u> 10:00 am-1:00 pm	7 <u>Praise & Worship Team Practice</u> 3:30-5:00 pm <u>Cookie Drop-Off</u> 10:00 am-1:00 pm <i>Hanukkah Begins</i>	8 <u>Packaging of Cookies</u> 9:30 am	9 <u>Praise Service</u> 5:00 pm <u>Jubilate Choir Concert</u> 7:00 pm <u>17th Annual Cookie Sale</u> 10:00 am-Noon
10 <u>Traditional Service</u> 10:30 am 	11	12 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am-11:30 am <u>Crocheting with Bev</u> 1:30 pm	13 <u>Joint Advent Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm @ BUMC	14 <u>Praise & Worship Team Practice</u> 3:30-5:00 pm <u>Cooks Night Out</u> 5:30 pm 	15 <u>Deadline for Electronic Giving Requests/Changes</u>	16 <u>Praise Service</u> 5:00 pm
17 <u>Traditional Service</u> 10:30 am	18 <u>Joint Charge Conference</u> 6:00 pm @ ESUMC <u>Charles Wesley's Birthday (1707)</u>	19 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am-11:30 am <u>Crocheting with Bev</u> 1:30 pm <u>Ad Council Meeting</u> 6:00 pm	20 <u>Joint Advent Bible Study</u> 7:00 pm @ ESUMC <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	21 <u>Praise & Worship Team Practice</u> 3:30-5:00 pm <i>Winter Solstice/First Day of Winter</i>	22 	23 <u>NO Praise Service</u>
24 <u>No 10:30 am Service.</u> <u>Christmas Eve Worship</u> 7:00 pm 	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26 <u>Bible Study</u> 10:00 am-11:30 am <u>Crocheting with Bev</u> 1:30 pm <i>1st Day of Kwanzaa</i>	27	28 <u>Praise & Worship Team Practice</u> 3:30-5:00 pm	29 	30 <u>Praise Service</u> 5:00 pm <u>Ladies Breakfast</u> 9:00 a.m. Pine Street Café
31 <u>Traditional Service</u> 10:30 am <i>Watch Night</i>	 <i>May your Christmas be filled with Peace, Love, and Joy</i>					