

News from the



December 2019
Circuit Rider



ALMOST CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve Services

10am Maranatha Service

4pm Family Friendly

7pm Traditional Candles & Carols

9pm Recovery Event (Fellowship Hall)

11pm Traditional Candles & Carols

BROOKLYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7200 BROOKLYN BLVD, BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429



7200 BROOKLYN BLVD.
BROOKLYN CENTER, MN 55429
Office Hours 9am-4pm (M-Th)
9am-noon (F)

763-561-1684

admin@bumc.org

bumc.org

*Videos of Sunday's sermons can be
found on our website under
Worship/Past Sermons*

BECOMING THE HEART OF THE BROOKLYNS BY ...

REACH NEW PEOPLE

Through service, worship,
discipleship, reaching new people
with the grace of God

LOVE GOD & LOVE NEIGHBOR

Living out the 2 great
commandments of Jesus Christ
in everything we do as a
community of faith.

HEAL A BROKEN WORLD

Serving alongside our neighbors to
become the heart of the Brooklins,
the north side and beyond.

*We are pumping in and
pumping out the love of God
to the community around us.*

*2019 Average Worship
Attendance = 285*

I have been reading John Wesley's sermon "*The Almost Christian*" throughout November as I have prepared for *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*. We are going to explore through worship - a study, intergeneration Wednesday evening events and daily devotions - the traditional Advent themes of Peace, Hope, Love and Joy through the questions John Wesley asked us on our journey from being an almost Christian to an altogether Christian. Our Advent Candles will take center stage in worship and in our homes as we explore Wesley's questions.



I have to admit it's not an easy read, John's sermon, and if I just preached it on a Sunday morning you might toss a hymnal at me! If you would like to read it you can find it online or ask me and I'll print you off a copy. It was written in 1741, so though the language is dated, the questions, the challenges he makes, are worth our time and struggling if we are going to move from being an almost Christian into becoming an altogether Christian this Christmas. It is going to be a wonderful journey so I challenge you to do a few things this Advent. For one, we suspend all meetings and administrative teams for December so we can all focus on our spiritual growth.

So I encourage you to the following: Worship! Not just on Sunday but all the special worship events we have this month; join a study of Almost Christmas; families grab our Advent-To-Go boxes and every night, in every home, explore Peace, Hope, Love and Joy as a family. If you are without children, make sure to grab our Daily Devotions and every night around your own Advent wreath explore Peace, Hope, Love and Joy along with Wesley's spiritual questions. Give as extravagantly to the church as God has given to you. And lastly, serve and find at least one way where you are the heart of the Brooklins.

It is going to be a great journey to become an Altogether Christian this Advent.

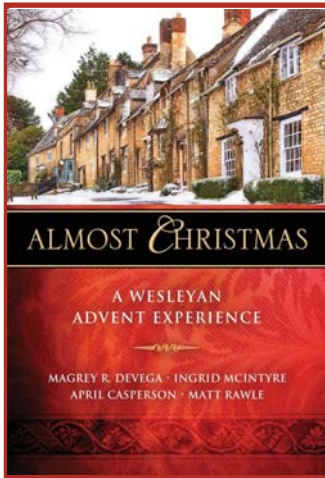
~Pastor Rich



MCCI, Missional Church Consultation Initiative, is a multi-year process, sponsored by the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist church and Brooklyn UMC is part of this Initiative in 2019-2020.

Each month since August, Pastor Rich attends a Pastor cohort, an all day training session on becoming a missional/vital church and then brings back what he has learned to our Executive Council and Church Council to implement the MCCI initiatives. Currently our Council Exec. Team is working on a Congregational Self Study while Pastor Rich takes a look at the demographics of 5 mile radius around our church. At the same time North UMC has partnered with us to use the MCCI process to explore possible ministry partnerships. Pastor Rich is leading their Church Council, as well as, preach at their service (10:30am) on the 4th Sundays of the month. Our Breakthrough Prayer is an initiative of MCCI. Pastor Rich will put out an MCCI newsletter in the next few weeks updating us on the process in more detail.

Though not part of the MCCI process, Pastor Henry and a newly formed Stewardship team is leading BUMC into a year-round Stewardship model. Their leadership of this vital ministry frees Pastor Rich up to have the time to devote to leading BUMC through the MCCI process.



Almost Christmas Study

Pastor Rich will be leading a 4 session Advent Study on the book *Almost Christmas* during Advent (December)

Sunday Mornings 10:10am to 10:45am

Sunday Evenings 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Both in the Library at BUMC

Session #1, Dec. 1st, An Altogether Peace

Session #2, Dec. 8th, An Altogether Hope

Session #3, Dec. 15th, An Altogether Love

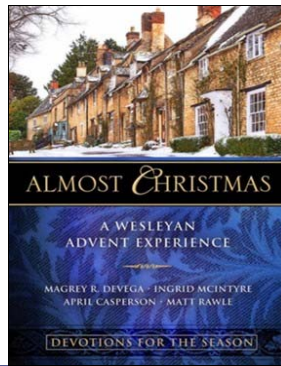
Session #4, Dec. 22, An Altogether Joy

Pick up a copy of *Almost Christmas* (\$13) in the office or download on your e-reader.

Advent Daily Devotionals

Pick up a copy of *Almost Christmas: Devotions For the Season* (\$10) or download it on your favorite e-reader, then every night join us as we explore the themes of Peace, Hope, Love and Joy through the faith questions that John Wesley asked of the people called Methodists in his sermon "The Almost Christian" (1741).

A shorter version of the devotions will be emailed to everyone or available after worship in print form for anyone who does not want the book. Our hope this Advent is that every home will light an Advent candle once a day and read through our devotions together. Our worship services will lay the ground work for the themes we will look at each day at home.

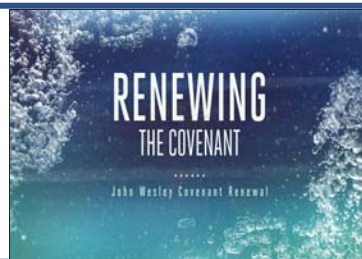


God of grace, breakthrough Brooklyn UMC with your Spirit.
Show us how to be the Heart of the Brooklyns.
Show us how to love You and Neighbor.
Show us how to heal a broken world.
Show us how to reach new people.
Show us how to be a church for everyone.
And give us the grace and courage to act on your will.
Amen.

Sunday, January 5th

(9am, 10:45am and 11:30am)

Join us in worship as we start out 2020 with John Wesley's **Covenant Renewal Service** and renew our faith for the coming year. Communion will also be served at all three services.



Watch Night Service

Tuesday, Dec. 31st

9pm-midnight

Sanctuary of BUMC

An African and African-American Worship tradition bringing in the new year. Come for all or just a portion of the evening. All cultures are welcome. Pastor Henry and our 11:30 Choir leads this service.



Saving our change, making special gifts, to heal a broken world.

Change for Change Offerings

Using our change and special gifts, God calls us to give to change the world. Each Sunday we ask all of BUMC to save their change, bring it to worship along with any special gift you feel God is calling you to give, and place it in our Change for Change Offering. Together we shall change the world.

This month we are supporting Heifer International and our Good Samaritan Fund.

Heifer International

In December we will join forces with our Sunday School Kids who are studying Heifer Project. Heifer Project has been a long standing ministry supported by the United Methodist Church. Our Sunday School kids will help us learn about what animals our gifts will help bless communities with around the world. Children's Ministry will have ornaments for sale and catalogs available.

Good Samaritan

This is the fund we use to support our members, friends and neighbors in need throughout the year.

Throughout December if you would like to support our Good Samaritan Fund you could also purchase Gift cards - Target, Walmart, Cub, Hy-Vee, any local gas cards - and simply place them in the Change for Change Offering baskets and our Pastors will make sure they are used.

5th Sunday Service

Due to our service activities highlighted for encounter Wednesdays, we will not have our usual 5th Sunday service projects or our potluck. Enjoy your Christmas presents!!



Merry Christmas

From Your Friends At The
Brooklyn Recovery Ministry

Recovery Worship:

Sunday Nights at 5:30 pm

AA:

Saturday Mornings at 10:00 am

Sunday Nights at 6:45 pm

Join us for a special

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24th @ 9:00 pm

Everyone Welcome

Brooklyn United Methodist Church
7200 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429
763-561-1684
bumc.org

Want to help BUMC be the *Heart of the Brooklyns* by Healing a Broken World?

Homeless Youth

Dignity Center Support

Emergency Shelter Team

Soup Delivery Team

Soup Makers

Transit Station Clean Up Team

CEAP Team

The Heart of the
BUMC
brooklyns



Is God calling you to join one of these teams? Lead one of them?
Start a new team around a particular Social Justice Issue?
For some of our old United Methodists, these groups will be doing the
work of Church and Society Ministries.
Contact the office if you would like to join in on a team being formed
or start a new one.

Back in September, the St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation recognized former BUMC pastor, Rev. Gloria Roach Thomas, for her involvement in anti-racism. Prior to ordained ministry and pastoring, she worked in non-profit management. It was during these years that she began finding her 'voice' in working with equity issues, which led her to advocacy and to work to reduce the impact of racial disparities. She continues to teach 'Death and Dying Across Cultures and Religions' as an adjunct Teaching Specialist at the University of Minnesota in the Mortuary Science Program in the School of Medicine. She also works with "Fiscally Fit," a program working to eliminate economic disparities by fostering financial health and wellness.

Jerry & Fran Davis and Joan Campe attended this event honoring her.



IT'S COOKIE WALK TIME

UMW

December 8

UMW

It is that time of year again when we start thinking about all those good Christmas treats we enjoy. Be sure to join us for BUMW's annual Cookie Walk on Sunday December 8th. Help us out by baking and donating your special treats; be one of the ladies who work that Sunday to set up and work the cookie walk; and when all of you buy some treats, this is sure to be a successful event. Remember, all proceeds go to missions locally, nationally and worldwide. Questions, call Kathy Carter at 763-424-2631. See you all there!!!



Just some of BUMC's breast cancer survivors and a few still fighting, recognized in October.



BROOKLYN'S KIDS

December 2019

BUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

December for Kids



December
Sunday School
All Services

Kids will be following the
four themes of Advent:

Peace
Hope
Love
Joy



Sunday, December
29th at 10 am
Children will help
lead the service
"Of Stars and
Kings".
They will take parts
of the liturgy & sing.



**It's Beginning to
Sound A Lot Like
Christmas!!!**

Kids age 3 to 7th grade are
rehearsing for the Choir
Concert on Sunday,
December 8th
at 2PM. Look for
rehearsal schedules and
music to be sent home
with kids, in the mail, and
by email.

Is Your Child a Rock Star? Of course!

We would like to celebrate your
child's special achievements and
important milestones. If they
have accomplished something
like earning a belt in karate, a first
in the school spelling bee,

volunteering in the community,
receiving an honor in their school
or starring in a play, let me know
and we'll feature them in an up-
coming Circuit Rider!



Important Dates

Every Sunday	9 am, 10:45 am, 11:30 am Sunday School, PreK class, Nursery care
Sunday, December 8th at 2 pm	Children sing in Choir Concert
Wednesdays in December	Special Advent activities for all ages!
Sunday, December 29th, 10 am	Children help lead the service "Of Stars and Kings"

Special points of interest:

- Sunday School volunteers ALWAYS needed
- Please register children for Sunday School because we want to celebrate birthdays, place kids in the appropriate small group by age and grade, have email and mailing addresses to send out Sunday School or event information, and avoid health risks like food or other allergies.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda at
children@bumc.org, 763--561-1684 or 763-234-2019



CARE MINISTRIES

Mim Campbell,
Pastoral Care



Tuesday Mornings
10:00—11:30 AM
January 21 - April 28

GriefShare is a 13-week seminar for adults who are moving through various stages of grief. It's an opportunity to come as you are and find comfort in knowing you are not alone as you strive to find new perspectives on life and living it.

90-minute GriefShare sessions consist of video presentations feature interviews with grief recovery experts and real-life stories of people who have experienced the death of a loved one. A workbook will also be used for further personal study and reflection at home. Cost: \$15.00

Please contact Mim at (612) 791-3969 or
mim@bumc.org.
(Scholarships are available)



Prayers of the People

Please take a moment to share expressions of care and prayer for the following people....

For the families of those who have lost loved ones:
Pauline Roberts who lost her sister and Ann Bystrom who lost her brother. May life-giving memories live on in their hearts and minds.

For healing, health and strength for the following members of our faith community:
Bill Barott, Doris Kephart, Jim Hoffner, Sherry Lindner, Venus Jones, Pastor Marilyn.

Please help us stay in touch with members of our church and community who are in need of support and prayer. Please contact Mim (612) 791-3969 or the Church Office. "Prayer & Requests for Care" cards are available in the pew racks.

Missing Family During the Holidays?

There are so many things that we rely on to make and keep our celebrations so special...

- ... Decorations placed in certain rooms or locations every year.
- ... Special items for meals and treats
- ... Definite rituals and traditions, including a typical order of events
- ... Special people - family and friends - to gather with

There's just such a sense of comfort and joy that accompanies memories and anticipations we can rely on. Some things can change without too much stress. But people make all the difference.

This year, you may be missing people who can't be with you, including those who have gone to heaven before you. Here are a few things you can do to acknowledge their presence and keep them close.

- ... Light candles for them.
- ... Set out pictures and photo albums to prompt sharing of memories and events
- ... Set a place for them.
- ... Include a special dish or garnish that special people always made or enjoyed.
- ... Thank God for the gift of family and the special gifts each member brings.

This year, we will be setting aside time in our Christmas celebrations to embrace those who are not with us in body but in spirit. Amidst the joys of the season, there are many of us who carry an undeniable sorrow.

A special book of daily devos is available to support you during each day in December. They are available in the church office.

There will also be a special worship service.

Sunday, December 22
2:00 PM

in the Sanctuary
(Refreshments to follow)

Come with a photo of your loved one(s) and gather with us at the manger to reflect on God's love and find hope through word and song.

Please contact Mim if you have any questions.



Soup-to-Go!



Special thanks to everyone who supported 2020 youth mission trips by ordering soup. 150 quarts were home made, frozen and shared with members of our congregation.

Your support is so appreciated as we try to include everyone who has an interest in sharing God's love and care in this way!

Youth Ministry

By Mim Campbell, Director



Providing opportunities for Grade 6-12 to grow in faith and community.

Confirmation 2019

(Left to right)

(back) Justin Yelegon
Darius Amenuvor
Syewon (SJ) Weah
Edmund Ocansey

(front) Faith Sherman
Linda (Beauty) Pierre
Georgia Forfor
Jamiya Walker
Eliese Baird

Leaders: Mim Campbell,
Pastor Rich and Pastor Henry



Walkin'
the Talk...



Grades 6-12 continue to discover ways to "walk" their talk about God's love for the world and have a little extra fun on the side

Sunday, December 7
11:00 - 3:00 PM

Youth will have another festive Bingo Party with residents at Maranatha. It will include Christmas songs and Christmas décor to help them decorate their rooms!

Sunday, December 15
11:00 - 3:00 PM

Youth will meet to prepare a small gift and have lunch before dressing as nativity characters to go caroling at Tradition and St Therese Oxbow Lake.

Please wear your FaithTrek t-shirts and bring a water bottle. Adult drivers will be needed. Please contact Mim to sign-up. Call/text: (612) 791-3969 or mim@bumc.org



To our Communion Servers and Liturgists:
Sana Eakins, Arlene Swanson, Marlys Carls-Steiskal, Gary & Jean Blosberg,

Judy Mennenga, Carol Foster, Kathy Carter, Jill Michael

And our Greeters:

Bev Lawrence, Ray Bonestroo, Jo Bonestroo, Chris Stone, Linda Stone, Bob Page, Marge Page, Chester Dryke, Claire Dryke, Mary Ann Peterson, Peggy Strickland and Flora Okwor



MISSION MINUTE

Christmas in September?

That's when many of you filled and wrapped a shoebox for the children of Spirit Lake Dakota Reservation in Oberon, North Dakota. The shoeboxes are filled with toys, gloves, hats, etc. and are age and gender specific. Mike and Libby Flowers direct the Spirit Lake Ministry Center and are good friends of Pastor Rich and his family. The two other churches that contributed to our total are Messiah UMC, in Plymouth and a church in Chicago that stayed at BUMC on their way to Spirit Lake for mission work. Approximately 450 shoeboxes were taken to North Dakota by Pastor Rich prior to Thanksgiving.

Where is Spirit Lake you may wonder. It is typically known as Devil's Lake, however, the Christian concept of the devil is not present in the Dakota philosophy. Spirit Lake is a closed basin watershed in north central North Dakota. A little history on the Dakota tribe. They originally lived in present day Wisconsin. As settlers came in the 1800's, the Dakota were forced westward. With the Indian-Settler uprising in Minnesota in 1862, they were moved further westward and north. The Spirit Lake Tribe Reservation was established by Treaty in 1867 and is composed of 3 bands-Pabaksa, Sisseton and Wahpeton. The Mission Team thanks you for spreading Christmas cheer and small gifts of love.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PACKS

A quality meal at a price you can afford.
Available at all locations during December!



\$30

Holiday Pack Includes*:

- Spiral Half Ham (bone-in) - 7-9 lbs
- Whole Chicken - 5.5 lbs
- Hormel Pork Roast- 1.5 lbs
- Tyson Chicken Drumsticks- 1.9 lbs
- Meatballs- 14 oz
- Mixed Vegetables - 1 lb
- Frozen Corn - 1 lb
- Mrs. Smith's Dutch Apple Pie - 9"

*LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD
*Items subject to change

Brooklyn Center

Thursday 12/12, 4- 6 pm



fare for all
a program of the food group

CEAP

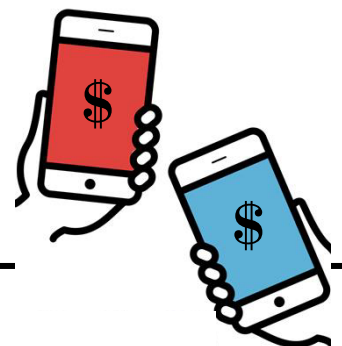
7051 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center MN

763-450-3880

www.fareforall.org

Are you tired of writing checks to the church each week for your contribution or used your last check & forgot to restock before coming on Sunday?

Very soon we will have a way for you to contribute electronically, right from your phone!! Watch for more information in the weeks ahead.





Loaves & Fishes serves meals every Monday, Wednesday & Friday from noon-1pm. All are invited to join lunch and volunteers are always needed. Please call 612-377-9810.

TRADITION

INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING

8500 Tessman Farm Road
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

(763) 416-7740
TraditionLCS.com

LIFESTYLE Promise™

Managed by Life Care Services™



Where neighbors become great friends!



simple. delicious. fun.™

Have a fun party with friends and shop over 90 foods and gifts!

Contact me for more information.

**tastefully
simple®**

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Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
mjklemm69@gmail.com
612-978-7162

tastefullysimple.com | 320.763.0695
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Lawn Maintenance

Snow Removal

**RAPID
LAWN CARE**

(763) 913-0330

www.rapidlawncareinc.com

If you have a need for a service (snow shoveling, repairs, etc.), let us know!! We'll send it out via our mass email to try & help out.



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bumc.org



@BrooklynUMC



BrooklynUMC

STAFF & OTHER CONTACTS

Lead Pastor:

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Associate Pastor:

Rev. Henry Dolopei - hdolopei@bumc.org

Children & Family Ministries Director:

Linda Browning - children@bumc.org

Director of Developmental Ministries:

Mim Campbell - youth@bumc.org

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9am - Clayton Heidbreder - music@bumc.org

10:45am - Lexi Bergevin - encounter@bumc.org

11:30am - Carl Doe - acm@bumc.org

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The CIRCUIT RIDER is a monthly publication of Brooklyn UMC. Its purpose is to highlight life in the church for members and friends. Comments, articles and information can be emailed to crider@bumc.org. The monthly deadline is the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Church office phone: 763-561-1684



Acceptance ~ Belonging ~ Connection ~ Service
Brooklyn United Methodist Church
7200 Brooklyn Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

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Sunday Worship Times:
9:00 am Traditional
10:45 am encounter
11:30 am Contemporary with an African Flair