

## UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

[buffalocov.org/events](http://buffalocov.org/events)

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Come worship with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior at our Christmas Eve services.

December 23 - 7:00 pm

December 24 - 1:30, 3:00 and 4:30 pm (childcare provided during all three services)

To reserve your spot visit [buffalocov.org/christmas](http://buffalocov.org/christmas).

### CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Join us on December 25 and January 1 for a 10 am worship service. There will not be childcare or nursery during these services.

### CHRISTMAS BOOKSTORE

**TODAY (Last day) // Commons**

We've got all you need to give kids gifts this Christmas. Purchase a Bible, Bible story book, devotional book for kids, and other family resources. Great for any special child in your life. There are limited supplies on hand.

### LIVING NATIVITY

**TONIGHT, 5-7 pm // BCC**

Browse the Bethlehem marketplace and see the live animals. Spend time at the stable with Mary, Joseph and the baby. Interact with the Wise Men, Angels, Roman Soldiers and more. Enjoy cookies and hot chocolate as you remember the reason we celebrate Christmas.

### CHRISTMAS LOVE PROJECT

**Side By Side Ministries & Kingdom Builders School**

We encourage you to support two outreach and discipleship mission organizations – one near and one far. Both ministries reach people with the good news of the Gospel, then disciple and train them to bring the Gospel to their own communities. Our goal is to provide Side By Side Ministries with the funds they need to feed and minister to students in 2023, and to provide a water well for Kingdom Builders School for their students and surrounding area.

**Ways to give:** check, cash or online at [buffalocov.org/give](http://buffalocov.org/give).

### COMING THIS WEEK

**Wednesday, December 21** – No Awana, Hang Time or Wednesday Night Meal

**Friday, December 23** – Christmas Eve Service, 7 pm, Worship Center

**Saturday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Service, 1:30, 3 & 4:30 pm, Worship Center

**Sunday, December 25** – Christmas Day Service, 10 am, Worship Center



## THE JOURNEY OF UNDERSTANDING

Pastor Mark Stromberg

*John 1:1-14*

*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.*

*9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

*14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

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*"Mom, wouldn't it be great if Daddy could just step out of the picture frame?"*

*"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." (The Message)*

## THE INCARNATION TEACHES US ABOUT...

### 1. The True Nature of the World

*Christmas tells us that in spite of whatever may seem to contradict it, this is the world God visited to redeem His people. It is not the devil's world. He did not create it, nor does he sustain it. It is also not our world. We are "just a'passin' through." Rather, it is God's world. Rebellious admittedly, but still His.*

*"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world."  
John 16:33*

### 2. The True Nature of God

*The Bible does not answer every question that we have on every topic. But it does teach us about the nature of our world and the nature of our God...not in totality...but still, truthfully. And He is the One who stepped out of the picture to explain the 'whys' and 'wherefores' of our existence.*

### 3. The True Nature of Ourselves

*Romans 7:21-25*

*21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Unworthy? Yes. Worthless? NO!

Through Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father stepped out of the picture at Christmas for you and me. Because of that, we can know the truth about the world...about God...and about ourselves...not in totality...but enough to exercise faith and obedience.

# welcome TO BUFFALO COVENANT

## NEW TO BCC?

Here at Buffalo Covenant, you can learn, grow and connect in an authentic and biblically-based community. If you want to know more about us, or have questions on how to get connected, please stop in at the Welcome Center.

## PRAYER

For prayer requests, contact the Church Office or fill out the prayer section on the Get Connected card and return to the Welcome Center.

## CHILD CARE

Child care is provided for infants through age five (pre-k) during both 9 am and 11 am services.

## COFFEE & PASTRIES

Grab a free coffee. Purchase a \$1 pastry from the BCC youth fundraiser in the Commons.

## GIVE

Offering boxes are in the back of the Worship Center or you can give at [buffalocov.org/give](http://buffalocov.org/give).

# sunday, december 18

## WORSHIP WITH US

### TODAY

The Journey of Understanding (John 1:1-14)

### CHILDCARE

Available at 9 am and 11 am service (ages 0-5)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes available for all ages from 10:10-10:50 am

### MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Held in the BCC gym at 10:10 am  
TODAY - O Come, O Come Emmanuel with Jordan Danielson  
December 25 - No Ministry Spotlight

### UPCOMING SUNDAY SERMONS

**THE JOURNEY OF CHRISTMAS (ADVENT SERIES)**  
December 25 - The Journey of a Just Man (Matthew 1:18-25)  
January 1 - The Journey Home (Matthew 2:1-23)



BUFFALO COVENANT

[buffalocov.org](http://buffalocov.org)