

## UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

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

### VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN ONLINE

*June 12-16, 9 am-12 pm // BCC*

This year at VBS, your kids will learn how they can be part of God's kingdom! Through salvation in His Son they'll be equipped with the armor of God to become Keepers of the Kingdom and stand strong in today's battle for truth. Sign up online at [buffalocov.org/children/special-events](http://buffalocov.org/children/special-events).

### SALT

*Tuesday, May 16, 1:30 pm // Worship Center & Youth Room*

Join us for a musical treat with David and Grace Geske! David is a pianist who has traveled the five-state area with The Songmasters, a southern gospel group. As part of his performance, he will lead us in several familiar choruses. Then, you're invited to salad luncheon. A love offering will be taken during the event.

### STEADFAST FAMILY PLANTING DAY

*Saturday, May 20, 10-11:30 am // BCC Garden*

Bring your work gloves and join us for Family Planting Day! You can get the whole family involved in this great outdoor ministry! Produce from the Steadfast ministry goes toward Nourishing Hope, the Buffalo Food Shelf, and home deliveries with the gospel message with hand-written notes of encouragement to our neighbors who are struggling.

### SENIOR SUNDAY

*Sunday, May 21, Morning Services // Worship Center*

Our 2023 graduates will lead Sunday services with a focus on being "All In!" by following Christ and being a disciple no matter the cost. Come worship with us as the seniors share their gifts with the entire congregation through music, Scripture, testimony and sermons.

### SUMMER MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

*Sunday, May 21, 10:10 am // Gym*

You can get your family involved in missions! We have an opportunity for the young and young at heart this summer, especially on a short-term mission trip to West Virginia. Join us in the gym for more information.

### RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

*Friday, May 26, 9 am-3 pm // Gym*

Buffalo Covenant is again hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive this spring. We have a goal of 60 units and there are numerous spots still available. All donors will receive a Red Cross water bottle and stickers! We are still in need of volunteers to help host this event – please contact the church office to volunteer. Please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment to donate.



## THE THREE WORLDS OF THE CHRISTIAN

Pastor Mark Stromberg

### THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INTRODUCTION!

Ephesians 1:1-10

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ."

Imagine flying from New York to Paris...

### THE FIRST ENVIRONMENT - OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS ARE LIVED IN CHRIST JESUS

*In Christ...for forgiveness! In Christ...for peace!*

*In Christ...for holiness! In Christ...for guidance!*

*In Christ...for service! In Christ...forever!*

## THE SECOND ENVIRONMENT - OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS ARE LIVED IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SAINTS

*"You had just enough strength, added to ours, to make the thing go."*

*"The truth is that faith in Christ cannot be maintained without the fellowship of his people. The Christian life cannot survive without common prayer and common song. It thrives only by the ministry of the Word and the partnership in service." Rev. James Clow*

Hebrews 10:19-25

*"Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

## THE THIRD ENVIRONMENT - OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS ARE LIVED IN AN UN-IDEAL WORLD

*'In Christ'* is our light. *'In fellowship'* gives us a lift. *'In Ephesus'* is our lot.

Ephesus was pagan...prosperous...idolatrous...flourishing...immoral...bustling... sensual...*in* love with sport...*in* love with spectacle...*in* love with self.

And squarely in the middle of it all were strong women and men of the Christian faith whose glory did not lie in the hope that they were going to be saints once they got to heaven... but it lay in the fact that they were already saints right in the middle of Ephesus...for they were a New Creation...and they belonged to Christ.

Be *'In Christ'* and *'In communion with the Saints'* and you'll be able to handle being *'In Ephesus.'*

You will not only *survive* but be able to *thrive* through the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name.

Then we can fulfill our Lord's prayer to the Father at the Last Supper in John 17 that we be *in* the world but not *of* the world...consecrated in truth and sent by Christ to help *redeem* the world.

# welcome TO BUFFALO COVENANT

## NEW TO BCC?

Here at Buffalo Covenant, you can learn, grow and connect in an authentic and biblically-based community. We want to get to know you! Scan the QR code to get connected, or stop by the Welcome Center to meet our friendly volunteers.



## GIVE

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

## PRAYER

If you have a prayer request, you can submit it online via the QR code, or enter it on the connection card in the chair back. Drop the connection card off at the Welcome Center for our prayer team. You can also email requests to [office@buffalocov.org](mailto:office@buffalocov.org).

## COFFEE & PASTRIES

Start your morning with a free coffee in the Commons. You can also purchase a \$1 pastry from the BCC youth fundraiser.

# sunday, may 14 WORSHIP WITH US

**TODAY** The Three Worlds of the Christian (Ephesians 1:1-10)

**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

## HELD IN THE GYM AT 10:10 AM

TODAY - Options for Women | Cornerstone

May 21 - Summer Mission Trip Opportunity

May 28 - Pastoral Update/Congregational Meeting

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERMONS

May 21 - Senior Sunday

May 28 - God's Warriors with Grayling Trees



BUFFALO COVENANT  
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