

## UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

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

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

*Starts September 20 // Serving 4:30-5:45 pm // Gym*

Join us at the church for dinner! A free meal will be offered every Wednesday evening before Awana and Hang Time. There will be a free will-offering to help cover the cost of food.

### CEF FUNDRAISER

*September 29 // Door open at 6 pm, Program starts at 6:30 pm // BCC*

Join CEF in celebrating everything God has been doing this year! Learn how we are planning to reach more children and how you can partner with us. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://www.cefgreatriver.online>.

### NEWCOMER LUNCH

*October 1, 12:15 pm // Patio*

The Newcomer Lunch is an incredibly informal way for you and your family to spend time connecting with each of our pastors, representatives from our Elder Board and hearing a bit more about BCC. There will be families of all shapes and sizes, some with kids and others without.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*October 1, 3 pm prayer & 4 pm meeting // Worship Center*

Come and see how God has been active in and through the ministries of BCC in 2023 - there will be a brief budget update, and votes on the pastoral/leadership transitions and new BCC elders. You do not need to be a member to attend. Please join us for a time of prayer for the meeting at 3 pm in the Youth Room.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT

*October 13-15 // Lake Beauty Bible Camp*

We all have tough stuff in our lives - health issues, broken relationships, even loneliness. It's not always easy to see God's purpose and sometimes it's hard to believe that ANY good can come from struggles. Join us for an encouraging weekend away with stories of endurance, strength and hope that will show you how God doesn't waste a single thing, even the hard things. Open to all women, high school graduates on up. Cost is \$130 for the weekend. Sign up online at [buffalocov.org/women](https://buffalocov.org/women).

### COMING THIS WEEK

**Encounter Prayer & Praise:** TONIGHT, 5 pm, Worship Center

**Access Impact:** Begins Monday, September 18, 6 pm, Gym

**SALT Hospice Presentation:** Tuesday, September 19, 1:30 pm, Youth Room

**Awana/Hang Time/Confirmation:** Begins Wednesday, September 20

**Art of Parenting Class:** Begins Thursday, September 21, 6-7:30 pm, Kidspace

**Men's Retreat:** September 22-24, Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch

# UNFORGIVEN

BUFFALO COVENANT

9/17/23

**UNFORGIVEN**  
Pastor Joel McQueen

**Matthew 18:21-35**

### FORGIVENESS IS KEY

Forgiveness was central to Jesus' teaching, and Jesus was clear in His teaching to His disciples that God will NOT forgive us if we refuse to forgive others (See Matthew 5:7, 6:14-15, and Luke 17:4.)

In Timothy Keller's book "Forgiveness," he points out: Our culture has an acute sense of justice but despises forgiveness." (Example social justice warriors and cancel culture.)

The question of Peter: "What's the limit to forgiveness, seven times?" (See verse 21.)

### WHY SHOULD OUR FORGIVENESS BE UNLIMITED?

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (verse 23-34)

The King is settling his accounts (money he entrusted to his servants) and there is a servant who owes an impossible amount (550 billion dollars).

We typically underestimate how bad our sin is: we all deserve eternal punishment in Hell.

Jonathan Edwards "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

The servant begs for mercy and the King forgives his debt!

The Gospel is that the infinitely precious blood of the Son of God was spilled to pay our debt of sin, that we owed to God.

But the servant turns around and incomprehensibly assaults and demands payment from a fellow servant who owes him (\$20,000).

It's living exactly opposite of the Gospel.

"You are the least like God when you choose not to forgive." -John MacArthur

The King "unforgives" the debt. He hands the servant over to the tormentors until he can pay. So also, God will hand you over to torment if you don't forgive.

Caveat: Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation (a restored relationship). Repentance (turning away from sin and towards relationship) on the part of the sinner is an important first step that is assumed in this story.

Caveat: In cases of abuse, involve authorities. Send people who break the law to jail. Discipline = love. Boundaries = wisdom.

## APPLICATION

If you wrestle with unforgiveness...

Choose to say aloud: I forgive \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_.

Pray for the person who hurt you as often as they come to mind. Trust God that justice will be done in His timing. Forgiveness is not forgetting.

Get help from Christian community if you need it.

Holocaust survivor Corrie Ten Boom came face to face with one of the guards at Ravensbruck (the place where her sister died) during a speaking tour in Germany where she had shared the Gospel. What would she do?

## BIG IDEA

Unlimited forgiveness frees you from torment. So, forgive just as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

# 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, september 17 WORSHIP WITH US

**TODAY** Unforgiven: Matthew 18:21-35 with Joel McQueen

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

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### HELD IN THE GYM AT 10:10 AM

TODAY - Congregational Meeting Preview & Elder Candidates  
September 24 - Ephesians 2 with Jordan Danielson  
October 1 - Congregational Meeting Preview

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERMONS

### SUFFICIENT GRACE

September 24 - 2 Cor. 12:7-10 with Darren Olson

### OUR CALL TO PRAY

October 1 - Teacher of Prayer with Mark Stromberg



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