

# Valley Voice

*Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church  
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World  
Pastor James Jacobs*

*Office Phone: 814-355-2208 – Cell Phone 814-422-8164  
April – May – June 2025*

If you ever see me driving down the road you can count on me doing one of two things, if my eyes are closed, I'm praying and if you see my lips moving, I am probably talking to myself.

When I had my churches down in McClure I had over an hour's commute. After 13 years of this commute the hour went by pretty quick because it gave me time to decompress and contemplate on a lot of my philosophical questions.

Now that I only have a 45-minute commute I still am doing the same things so if you see me on Buffalo Run Road and my eyes are closed don't judge me, I might be praying for you!

As I am writing this, I just got back from another pastoral road trip and as usual I was asking myself questions. My questions had to do with some Lent soul searching and what was in Jesus's mind leading up to his crucifixion.

The first question I had was ~ when did Jesus actually know he was destined for the cross?

Our Bible doesn't explicitly state when Jesus first knew he would be crucified, the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) record Jesus predicting his death and suffering, including crucifixion, multiple times during his ministry though.

So, another question I asked myself is when Jesus knew he was destined for the cross, I would think he would have been having some conversations with Dad along the lines of: Is my ministry on earth really coming to an end? Did I accomplish what you sent me for? I don't think my job here is done, surely, I can do more dad so why are you doing this to me?

I think these are legitimate questions considering clearly Jesus was dismayed when he said, **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"**

Jesus's words clearly indicates he felt abandoned, abandoned by his own father and he had to be thinking I am not done here, I have so much more to do, look at the world you put me in, the need is great, **"why have you forsaken me?"**

So, I guess we also might be thinking as Jesus did **"I am not done here"** or **"I have so much more to do!"**

The fact is my friends, we all have been given a ministry by God, and we have so much more to do.

You do not have to have Pastor, Reverend, Priest, Rabbi or Inman before your name to be in ministry with God.

Another fact is God has given each and every one of us talents to be in ministry together and those talents come in so many varying forms.

Serving in the food bank, cutting and splitting wood, making spaghetti meals work, helping serve those spaghetti meals, just being a greeter at those spaghetti meals, Sunday school teachers, Youth leaders, church trustees, being part of the visitation team, putting together communion, Master bakers ~ just to name a few! So, the next time you have a little free time or are driving down the road, ask yourselves what it is you want me to do in your name Lord Jesus.

Remember these words from 2 Timothy chapter 2 **"The Lord wants to use you for special purposes"**

If you don't know that purpose, well, just ponder these words from Matthew 7:7-8

**"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."**

Keep asking and knocking, keep asking and knocking!



**Greater Buffalo Run Valley  
United Methodist Church**

**102 Trinity Court  
Bellefonte, PA 16823**

***MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS  
CHRIST FOR THE  
TRANSFORMATION OF THE  
WORLD***

**Sunday Worship time is  
9:45 a.m. We are meeting in person. You'll  
find a link to the recorded service on our  
website ([greaterbufflorunvalleyumc.com](http://greaterbufflorunvalleyumc.com)) or  
our Facebook page ([gbrvumc](https://www.facebook.com/gbrvumc)). Children's  
Church is available for all ages.**

**If you are in need of prayer or would like to  
have a pastoral visit  
please contact  
Pastor Jim Jacobs  
Office Phone: (814) 355-2208  
Home Phone: (814) 422-8164  
Cell Phone: 814 571-5046  
Email: [jjacobs@susumc.org](mailto:jjacobs@susumc.org)**

**Church Office Hours**

**Lisa Catherman, Secretary/Treasurer  
Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

**You Are Invited!**

We are always looking for ways to reach out to our community offering inviting ways to have you join our church family. Maybe one of these events will fit into your calendar. We'd enjoy seeing you!



**SUNDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 11:15—  
"Eggs-citing"  
COMMUNITY Easter Egg  
Hunt "Open-to-the-Public"**

**At the Greater Buffalo Run Valley  
United Methodist Church  
102 Trinity Court (Church) and 112 Trinity Court  
(Annex), Bellefonte PA 16823**

**ALL CHILDREN WELCOME!!!**

**Eggs filled with candy, small toys, or prize tickets!**

**(Outside on the lawn, weather permitting!  
In case of rain, Egg Hunt inside the church!)  
For more information, check church webpage:  
[greaterbuffalorunvalleyumc.com](http://greaterbuffalorunvalleyumc.com)  
Facebook and YouTube at  
Greater Buffalo Run Valley UMC  
Church Office: 814-355-2208**

**Community Spaghetti Supper**

**There will be a community spaghetti supper on  
Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at the church. Serving time is 4  
to 6:30PM. Eat in or take out. Cost is \$12.**

**Fundraising Opportunities**

**Discounted Grange Fair Tickets**

**We will be offering discounted Grange Fair  
weekly admission and parking tickets again  
this year. The price is \$20 per ticket. All orders  
and money are due by Sunday, April 27th.  
Make checks payable to Grange Fair. If you  
are interested in selling tickets please see  
Debbie Houser for order sheets or call her at  
814-355-7716. Please make checks payable to  
Grange Fair.**

## Ham Sandwiches Are Back!



## **HAM AND CHEESE SANDWICH SALE!**

Order contains a Honey Baked Ham Sandwich on a roll with provolone cheese, chips and condiments.

Price is \$8

Saturday, April 26, 2025

\*Pickup at the church from 11:00— Noon

Church Location: 102 Trinity Court

Bellefonte, PA 16823

Call 814-360-9305 to Pre-Order

***WE ARE A BUSY CHURCH...WE ARE A  
GROWING CHURCH...WE ARE A FUN  
CHURCH! COME JOIN US!***

***Highlights from some of our recent events!***

### January

We had our first annual Winter Carnival that was well attended and enjoyed by all. It was an extremely busy time with over 166 attendees. The prep work was shared by many, and there were plenty of hours put into making this a GREAT success. We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Winter Carnival January 25, 2025

### DONORS

Dunkin Donuts	Mary Jacobs
Nature's Cover	Jennifer Dahlke - stadium backdrop
Sheetz	Vicky Free
Bellefonte Train Station	Curt Knepper
Pizza Hut	Diana LaRoche
Get Air	Penny Grove
Troy's Hoagies	Curt & Louise Knepper
Happy Valley Adventure Bureau	Emily Copper – Face painting
Confer's Jewelers	Youth
Discovery Space	Will Houser
Snowman cut out	
Benner Elementary	



There was Face painting, Duck pond, Card making, Jewelry making, rock painting, photo ops, games, basket toss, hula hoop and many other activities for all to enjoy. There was food: fresh popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, soft pretzels, and hot chocolate.

### February

The men did an outstanding job on treating the ladies of the church to a fantastic Valentine's Dinner.



The women thank all the men who made this wonderful dinner possible!

## ***Chi Rho Singers***

### ***Worship***



We were blessed to have the Chi Rho Singers present an outstanding concert at our church. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. We were pleased to be able to serve them a delicious meal and would like to thank everyone that made this event a pleasant experience. We

would also like to thank everyone that came out to support the group.

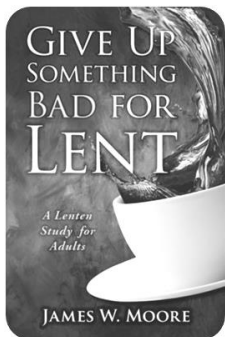
**Who they are:** The Chi Rho Singers are a group of approximately 35 active and retired pastors from the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**What they do:** They perform concerts and other musical events.

**Where they perform:** They have performed at various locations

**Social Media:** You can find them on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

### **Bible Study**



We began a weekly Bible Study led by Donna Vaux on "Give up Something Bad for Lent" by author James Moore. There is plenty of conversation and sharing as we learn. We will continue for several more weeks. We meet Tuesday evenings at

6:30PM at the church. Feel free to join in.

**Men's Coffee Crew Breakfast** continues the last Saturday of the month at 9AM. in the Fellowship Hall. Please come join us and bring a friend.

### **Celebrations**

As our Firewood4Good program continues to grow the need for additional equipment was recognized. We are happy to announce that the group received a \$10,000 grant to purchase a dump trailer!

## **Coats of Many Colors**

Thanks to the talents of seamstress Erlene Jordan our youth and young people have beautiful, colorful robes and scarves to wear as they share songs for the congregation to enjoy! Pastor Jim has one also!



### **Jingle Jars**

Several months ago "Jungle Jars" were introduced to the congregation. They came about due to the youth wanting to raise funds to support ministries. The second Sunday of each month the small jars (buckets) are passed with the goal of collecting loose change which then "jingles" in the bucket. In the picture below Ryland H. is pouring his small jar into the larger one held by Reigan G. We applaud the generosity of them in selecting worthy causes to receive the donations.





## **Fund Raising Report**

We are no longer offering the in Honor or Memory of a person or event donation envelopes but are excited to get some new ideas for our Fund Raising. When we were blessed with the funds to pay our church mortgage in full the New Building Fund Account was closed. Watch your bulletin and upcoming issues of the newsletter as we will be highlighting some projects for the church and will share the information with the congregation. Our Fund Raising goals will be to help fund some of the much needed projects.

Some ideas and plans for fundraising are:

Gardner's Candies sales for Easter

Lenten offering boxes

Raise Right (formerly Scrip)

Reduced Grange Fair Tickets

The Ironman race in June

Our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Strawberry Festival in June

Honey Baked Ham Sandwich sale

The very famous and popular Troy coupon sales

Our bake sale will be at the Bald Eagle High School in November

If you have any ideas or suggestions, we would be eager to hear them. Please reach out to Gloria Lohr or Diana LaRoche to discuss opportunities to continue our successful Fund Raising.

## **Wish List**

The Trustees have put together a "wish list" of projects for the upcoming year that we can help to become a reality. They have been prioritized based on need and ability to pay for each item as it's done. Each project will either enhance and/or complete something that will allow us to provide more activities or complete one that needs to be finished.

GRASS SEEDING—COMPLETED

TABLET TO CONTROL MINI SPLITS—COMPLETED

LANDSCAPING

KICKBALL FIELD

PAINT OUTSIDE DOORS AND FRAMES

TRIM AROUND ENTRANCE DOOR

BASIC MAINTENANCE ON CHURCH BUILDING

SOUND PROOFING FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL—IN PROGRESS

UTILITY SHED

PAVILION

PAVE PARKING LOT – PRICING HAS BEEN REQUESTED

PAVERS TO ANNEX NEED STABILIZED

Be watching for ways you can help physically or financially.

## **Story Highlights From Our Youth**

The elementary and preschool kids had a great time learning about Joseph and his Coat of Many Colors. His brothers pulled him from the well, not knowing who he was.



The Congregation was entertained as the children shared their song about Joseph and his coat of many colors. Pastor shared the reason for Ash Wednesday and the children were able to participate in Ash Sunday.

# April Celebrations and Easter Message

## Birthdays

Blair Free	2
Melissa Gummo	2
Bonnie Green	4
Nickie Walker	4
Deb Corcelius	8
Gilbert (Gib) Gummo	11
Jean Walizer	11
Dick Poorbaugh	13
Nancy Poorbaugh	14
Paylin Little	14
Wesley Fouse	15
Robert (Bun) Little	19
Tanner Hillard	19
Richard Stauffer	19
Paul Tomco	20
Dina Ishler	22
Fred Shay	22
Raylynn Clark	23
Reese Houser	23
Kelton Robinson	26
Cleo Tomco	27
Colton Clark	28
Deb Harter	28

## Anniversaries

Jim & Linda Bathgate	11
Tom & Evelyn Emel	13
Lisa & Ray Catherman	19
Bill & Karen Bilger	21



## **Easter – Celebrating a New Covenant**

The true message of Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and marks the beginning of a new covenant between God and man. It was indeed a colossal event in Bible history.

Shortly before His arrest, Jesus offered a prayer often referred to as, "The Great Intercessory Prayer." Many Scholars consider this prayer to be a conversation between Jesus and His Father, God, with Jesus speaking His requests into existence.

- *First, He prayed for Himself:*  
That the Father would receive Him back into Heaven, and restore the glory He had before the world began. (John 17:4-5).
- *Then He prayed for His Disciples:*  
That the Father would protect, guide and be with them as they delivered His message. (John 17:18).
- *Then he prayed for all Christians:*  
He prayed for each child of God to have the same unity as exists between He and the Father. A unity, which allows for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and oneness with God, (John 17:20-21).

Later that day Jesus was hung on a cross until dead. Near the point of death He said with a loud voice, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). The torn veil in the Temple was to signify that the Spirit of God would no longer be in the Ark that had been kept in the back of the Temple as the Most Holy of Holies under the "Old Covenant." Under the "New Covenant" the Spirit is placed in every born again Believer. The Followers of Jesus are now His Tabernacle, (His Church).

He was the new Passover Lamb. Never again would there be a need for animal sacrifice. The Lamb of God had shed His blood once and for all! Jesus is the true message of Easter, and Because Of Him mankind can have a relationship with their Creator, and be with Him for eternity.

For much of the world, Easter is only a tradition celebrated by colored Easter Eggs and the Easter Bunny. To the Followers of Christ, the true message of Easter proclaims the greatest act of love known to man. God's infinite love for mankind is the True Message of Easter, a love that will continue into Eternity. -- Sam Mills

# May Celebrations

## Birthdays

6	Tom Emel
6	Kenneth Saxion
9	Chelsea Emel
9	Emily Repka
13	Ian McLean
17	Lindsay Fouse
18	Dennis Magill
19	Billy Keith
21	Kyden Johnstonbaugh
25	Kate Blair
27	Gale Bowman
28	Will Houser
28	Anne Robinson

## Anniversaries

4	Bill & Kaye Keith
15	Bob & Virginia Hartle
26	Vernon & Winifred Monsell

## Memorial Day: A Day of Reflection and Gratitude

Memorial Day, the annual day of remembrance to honor all those who have died in service to the United States during peace and war extends to all branches of our military.

It is also a time for many to reflect and honor loved ones who have passed away.

The annual observance, formally known as Decoration Day offers a sacred time for us all. Along with honoring those who served our country, it is also a time for us to reflect and honor loved ones who have passed away recently or many years ago. Their memories live on in our hearts and are represented in the flowers, wreaths and other remembrances decorating their final resting place. Each one a reflection of the love and special memories shared in life. So thankful for each one.

## God is Like a Mom

There aren't many people more familiar to us than our moms, so in honor of Mother's Day, allow me to share a lesson about who God is from my own mom.

***The kingdom of heaven is like that time my mom forgot to tell me she let some homeless people move in with us.***

"Who are Eddy and Malita?" I asked. My mom forgets things sometimes. Sometimes it's her wallet or her keys. Sometimes it's telling her kids that she let two strangers move into our house. It turned out, Eddy and Malita were a homeless couple my older sister Catie met at church, invited them to our house for dinner and told them her mom would help them find a place to stay. And Mom did find them a place to stay. It was with us. Over the next seven months, Mom attended court dates with Eddy and Malita, bought them diapers and toys for their kids, and helped supervise visits with their children, so they could work towards being reunited, which they eventually did.

My mom helping Eddy and Malita makes me think of how God is always working with other people in ways we don't know about. Like most moms, He doesn't feel the need to trumpet what He's doing.

I don't think anyone is more present with a child than a mother is. They carry their children before they are born, and then, after, they spend their days kissing invisible injuries and walking them through all their emotions, even the silly stuff that doesn't really matter in the long run.

One of the most beautiful things about God is how He makes Himself present to us. When Adam and Eve opted to eat from the tree, selfishness took the place of other-centered love as the principle they lived from. They believed the devil's lies that they couldn't trust God. Pretty soon all of creation had gone off the rails. Instead of God telling Adam and Eve to pull themselves up by their bootstraps or condemning them, God made a promise to save humanity by stepping into our world. Like a mother kneeling down next to her toddler, God walked with Abraham. When He told Moses to make a sanctuary so He could be "with" His people, I almost picture a mom climbing into a fort her child has built in the living room. Finally, Jesus came and got down next to us on the floor of a stable. He said things like, "You're My friends" and "I've longed to gather you together, like a mother hen gathers her chicks." Christians spend a lot of time talking about chasing after God and finding Jesus, but I think if we stopped moving, we'd find that, like a mom, God is the one who's been there all along. Spend some time today thinking of the ways your mother or the mother-figures in your life have shown you Jesus.

--Anneliese Wahlman.

# June Celebrations – Remembrances – Father’s Day Recognition

## Birthdays

- 1 Cindy Dixon
- 3 Jamilyn Houser
- 8 Mike Walker
- 9 Jeff Corcelius
- 9 Carter Ishler
- 11 Renea Snyder
- 11 Karen Bilger
- 15 Kay Little
- 16 Jon Houser
- 16 Cheryl Shuey
- 18 Doug Deibler
- 19 Connie Peters
- 19 Carter Price
- 20 Kelley Rayl
- 25 Maxwell Fouse

## Anniversaries

- 1 Greg & Laurie Hubbard
- 12 Sam & Sue Runk
- 17 John & Connie Carr
- 19 Dale & Cindy Dixon

*Our sincere sympathies to  
the families and friends  
of:*

***Richard “Dick” Eminhizer  
Gladys Fetzer***

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die. John 11:25 GNT



## Attributes of a Loving Father

In the story of the Prodigal Son we find characteristics of a remarkable father that remind us of how God loves and cares for all His children.

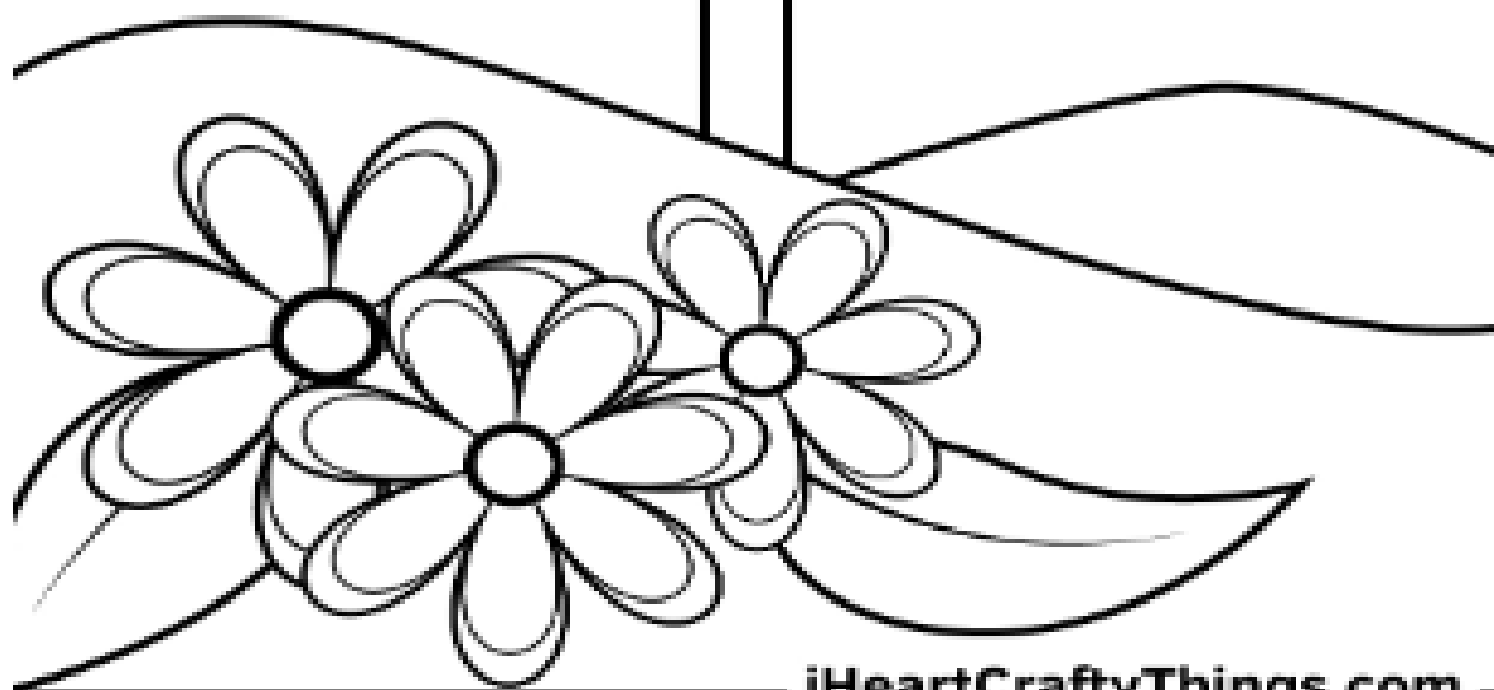
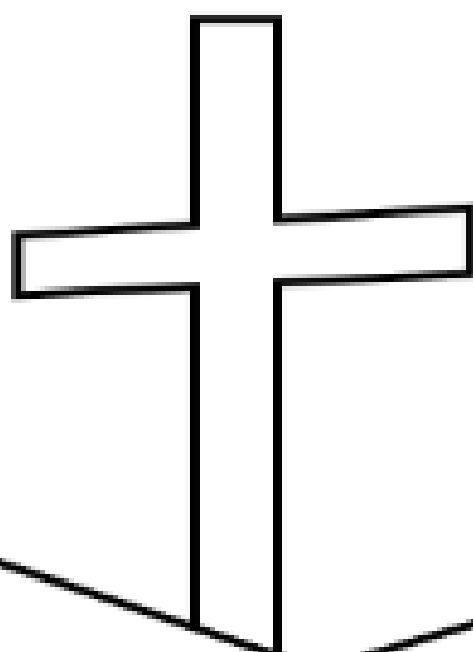
The first characteristic is that remarkable fathers often possess unconventional wisdom. Jesus tells the story of the Prodigal Son to a diverse group of people. He speaks of a son who has grown tired of life at home. He wants to go far away and live how he pleases, so he boldly asks his father for his part of his inheritance now, essentially saying to his father, “You’re worth more to me dead than alive.”

Even though it would have been controversial, and the father had to know it wouldn’t end well, he did what the son requested. Sometimes parents have to make decisions that are hard. He had determined that his son had finally reached a point in his life that he wasn’t going to learn in any other way. In Hebrews we read that God disciplines those He loves. Sometimes our Heavenly Father lets us go through tough stuff as a way of helping us grow when we’ve demonstrated we can’t grow in any other way. Sometimes God allows us to bottom-out physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, or relationally. The son ends up broken, penniless, and bankrupt and winds up doing something no Jewish man would do: he gets a job feeding pigs and is so hungry he wishes he could eat the food he is giving to the pigs. These feelings lead him to think, “What I wouldn’t give for a second chance.” Gratefully, our Heavenly Father does some of His greatest miracles in the pigpens of our lives. The boy decides to go home and beg for forgiveness. He is willing to be a servant rather than a son, if only his father will take him back into his household.

Then the craziest thing happens, while the boy is still a long way off his father sees him and is filled with compassion for him. The father runs to his son, throws his arms around him and hugs him and kisses him. The most important characteristic of a remarkable father, a father who portrays what God is like to his children, is the ability to instill in a child the sense that he or she is truly, deeply loved. Not everyone had such a remarkable dad but regardless of our upbringing, today we have a Father who loves us. Through this story we see this father not only possessed unconventional wisdom and expressive love but was also full of extravagant forgiveness. Just like the father in the story our Heavenly Father expresses these same attributes to each one of his children including you.



HAPPY  
EASTER





# Spring Word Search



N Q F I P F S D R I B L S B F Z R  
J V P X X O X S B G P I S R E P S  
T D X M R A W S N P T R R F S Q E  
N M Z B G T E A E O Z P E N J M O  
Y D B M P G A R N I X A W A J E U  
G S Y C T X S G I U R V O T N V V  
G I S N Q E T X H V U L H Q X Q C  
E V P F J V E K S Y U S S Z B Y L  
V D T L C P R E N A P R E E Q M I  
K D W O R Y D R U M B R E L L A W  
M R G W D Z B A S E B A L L L R Q  
R R T E Q W Q Y V T J D L A H C E  
M B H R M W D Q T W W Q R Q X H U  
M F M S E R J F N O T T A G S H E  
N G N I R P S X X B G A I S I V W  
E R H I I I L M G R E E N Y L T R  
Y R W D M L G Q T T I A O A F F B

SPRING  
MAY  
GREEN  
WARM  
UMBRELLA



MARCH  
FLOWERS  
GRASS  
SHOWERS  
EASTER



APRIL  
BASEBALL  
SUNSHINE  
RAIN  
BIRDS



## Greater Buffalo Run Valley United Methodist Church

Worshipping to serve and praise the Lord at 9:45am, in-person in the church building. The weekly service is posted on YouTube at gbrvumc and on our website at greaterbuffalorunvalleyumc.com after the church service.

### April 2025

**Acolyte** Brian Myers

**Ushers** Mark Leathers and Eddie Grubb

**Altar Flowers:** Jim and Linda Bathgate's 44th wedding Anniversary given by Linda Bathgate

	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20 Easter</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Gloria Lohr	Glenda Houser	Deb Houser	Emily Repka
<b>CC Teachers preschool &amp; under</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD.	TBD TBD
<b>CC Teachers Grade K-4</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>CC Teachers Grade 5 and up</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim N C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>Greeters</b>	Emily Repka Barbara Peiffer	Emily Repka Barbara Peiffer	Craig & Leslie Womeldorf	Craig & Leslie Womeldorf

### May 2025

**Acolyte** Kenneth Saxion

**Ushers** Brian Myers and Kenneth Saxion

**Altar Flowers:** In memory of our parents given by Joe and Dianne Matis

	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Gloria Lohr	Glenda Houser	Emily Repka	Deb Houser
<b>CC Teachers preschool &amp; under</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>CC Teachers Grade K-4</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>CC Teachers Grade 5 and up</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>Greeters</b>	Donna Mitchell Gale Bowman	Donna Mitchell Gale Bowman	Linda Carper Karen Bilger	Linda Carper Karen Bilger

### June 2025

**Acolyte** Any available children

**Ushers** Cindy & Dale Dixon

**Altar Flowers:** Honor of our 58th wedding anniversary given by John and Connie Carr

	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Gloria Lohr	Glenda Houser	Deb Houser	Emily Repka	Linda Bathgate
<b>CC Teachers preschool &amp; under</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>CC Teachers Grade K-4</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>CC Teachers Grade 5 and up</b>	TBD TBD	Pastor Jim No C Church	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
<b>Greeters</b>	Linda Bathgate Penny Grove	Linda Bathgate Penny Grove	Mark & Tammy Leathers	Mark & Tammy Leathers	Mark & Tammy Leathers

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Bellefonte, PA 16823

*Thank you to Grove Printing for printing this publication!*



We are partnering with Keystone Family Alliance which aims to educate, motivate, and equip every Christian to provide tangible support, prayer, resources and aid, to those who are providing care to orphans and vulnerable children. Be watching for more information as to how you can help.