

Our Mission . . . To Honor Jesus With Our Lives

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Church Family,

In Gospel of Mark 6:31, Jesus says to His disciples, “Come away by yourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.”

The demands of ministry had become so constant that Jesus and his disciples didn't even have time to eat. So Jesus called them to step away — not in retreat from the mission, but for renewal for the mission.

Over the past several years, I have sensed the Lord whispering those same words to my heart.

Like many pastors, my instinct has been to say, “This isn't a good time.” There is always another season to prepare for, another ministry to lead, another responsibility to carry. Yet through prayer and the counsel of trusted spiritual voices, I have come to recognize that extended time for spiritual renewal is not a luxury — it is stewardship.

This coming April, I will begin a three-month sabbatical, returning in July. This decision was approved in concept nearly a year ago, and since that time our Council and staff have been prayerfully preparing to ensure that BCOG continues to thrive during my absence.

Let me share my heart plainly.

➔  
(continues on pg 2)

### Worship With Us

Services: Sundays at 9 & 11 AM  
*Our 11 AM service is live-streamed on our app, website, YouTube, & Facebook*

### Need to Contact Us?

Busti Church of God  
996 Forest Ave Ext  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
(716) 487-1636  
www.busticog.org  
info@busticog.org

Senior Pastor: Roy Ferguson  
roy@busticog.org  
Associate Pastor: Scott Smith  
scott@busticog.org  
Associate Pastor: Danika Smith  
danika@busticog.org  
Office: janelle@busticog.org

**Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:30-3:30**

### Download the BCOG App!



I love this church deeply. August marked the beginning of my thirty-first year of ministry here. My desire is not to slow down or step back from calling — but to strengthen my soul so that I may continue serving you well for years to come. This sabbatical will be a focused season of seeking the Lord through extended time in His Word, deeper prayer, wise counsel, and intentional renewal.

Healthy churches plan for sustainability. Healthy pastors steward their souls. This season is about both.

In the weeks ahead, you will receive more detailed information about the sabbatical, including how leadership and preaching responsibilities will be handled. I am grateful to say that you will be faithfully led and well cared for.

In addition to receiving additional information in the coming days, on Sunday, March 22 we will have a “Sabbatical Informational Meeting” between services in the Sanctuary at approximately 10:15 am. Please make every effort to attend this meeting so that you will know, first -hand, what all of this means for you and the entire church.

**OFFERING & ATTENDANCE**

Feb 1 (169)	General Fund	\$6,922.33*
	Missions	\$808.30*
	Building Fund	\$185.00
	Uganda	\$1,365.00
	Facility Use	\$150.00
	Betty Lou Memoriam	\$50.00
	Office Supplies	\$56.03
		<hr/>
		\$9,536.66

Feb 8 (140)	General Fund	\$5,111.53*
	Missions	\$808.30*
	Building Fund	\$100.00
	Reimbursement	\$68.70
	Uganda	\$1,236.00
	Upward Bikes	\$900.00
		<hr/>
		\$8,224.53

Feb 15 (187)	General Fund	\$12,664.93*
	Missions	\$808.30*
	Building Fund	\$60.00
	Uganda	\$1,092.00
	Upward Bikes	\$300.00
	Discipleship (Books)	\$12.00
	Kitchen Fund	\$50.00
		<hr/>
		\$14,987.23

Feb 22 (136)	General Fund	\$7,710.33*
	Missions	\$808.30*
	Building Fund	\$85.00
	Uganda	\$1,077.00
	Facility Use	\$125.00
		<hr/>
		\$9,805.63

\*2026 Weekly Need is \$7,705  
(General + Missions=Weekly Need)  
YTD Weekly Fund: \$61,650.40  
YTD Weekly Need: \$61,640

For now, I simply ask for your prayers — for Sally and me, for our staff, Ministry Team and Administrative Council, and for our church family. I believe this season will not only strengthen me personally but position our church for an even more fruitful chapter ahead.

Christ remains the Head of His Church. He is our constant. And I am confident that as we keep our focus on Him, He will continue to guide and bless BCOG in powerful ways.

With gratitude and love,

*Pastor Roy*

**Sabbatical Informational Meeting**

Sunday, March 22  
Between Services

We will hold a Sabbatical Informational Meeting on Sunday, March 22 between services (around 10:15 AM). If you have any questions surrounding Pastor Roy’s upcoming sabbatical, this is the time and place to receive answers to those questions. It’s also an opportunity to gain a clearer picture of what things will look like for the church while Pastor Roy is away.

Remember, WE are Christ’s church and we are ALL called to His mission. So, regardless of who is standing at the pulpit on Sunday mornings, the mission and vision of this church remains the same, and the calling on each of our lives remains the same.

May we be found ready and willing to serve with compassionate and humble hearts in whatever capacity God calls us to serve—to live out the mission to honor Jesus with our lives!

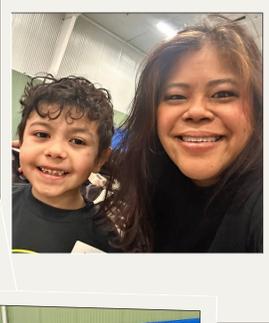
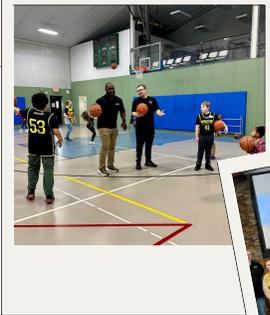
**SUBSPASH Giving**

You can give online at [busticog.org](http://busticog.org) or through our app. It’s easy, fast, & secure. If you’re able, we also encourage you to set up recurring giving. Thank you!

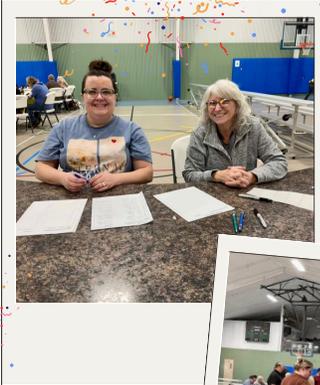
# BCOG LIFE



*Upward Sunday  
was such a blast!*



*Thank you to all the  
volunteers & those  
who made our Upward  
families feel welcome!*



*And thank you  
to all who contributed  
to the AMAZING  
breakfast spread! YUM!*

# Celebrating You!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3-3 Alaina Billquist
- 3-4 Deb McKinsey
- 3-5 Cali Lowe
- 3-6 Leann Austin
- 3-7 Dan Sheldon
- 3-8 Jane Stahl
- 3-11 Deborah Reynolds
- 3-13 Sophea Ferguson
- 3-14 Maverick Angelo  
Eliza Dahlin  
Marsha Donner
- 3-15 Frank Consiglio
- 3-17 Keturah Meerdink
- 3-18 Makenzie Pavolko
- 3-22 Richard Penhollow
- 3-23 Karen Saxton  
Tyler Smith
- 3-24 Nichole Johnson
- 3-25 Larry Stevens
- 3-26 Dianne French
- 3-30 Jeanie Hall  
Roy Roman  
Terrie Roman
- 3-31 Kenzie Ferguson

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3-8 Roy & Edna Roman (46)
- 3-21 Bill & Deborah Reynolds

## Did We Miss You?

Have a birthday or anniversary this month, but didn't see it listed? Please contact the church office and let us know so we can celebrate with you!

## “Create & Rejuvenate”

Women’s Connection Event  
Saturday, March 14 9 AM to 2:30 PM



Looking for a chance to feed your creative side? Need some time to relax and rejuvenate? The Women’s Connection has organized a day of creativity, inspiration and hands-on activities! Stay all day or come and go as you wish. If you have a craft or hobby, bring your materials and make progress on your projects. If you plan to stay for lunch, please bring a dish to share. It’s important that we take time to renew ourselves!

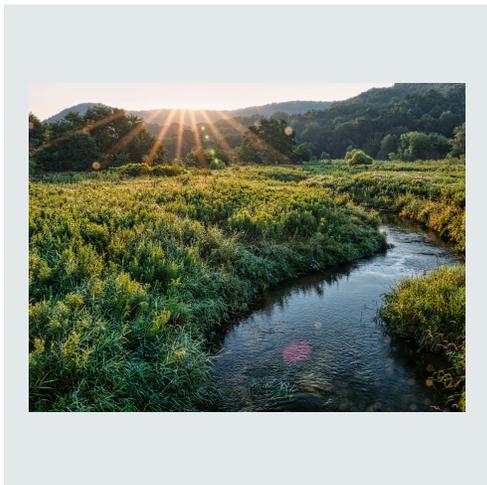
## You’re Invited to a Retirement Party for Lana Keller!

Lana Keller is officially retired! Come by and celebrate with us!

**When:** Saturday, March 14, 2026  
4:00-6:00 PM

**Where:** Busti Church of God (Family Life Center)  
996 Forest Ave Ext  
Jamestown, NY 14701

**RSVP:** Kelly Schifano (716) 969-0142



## Daylight Saving Time

Begins Sunday, March 8

Not only is Spring on its way, but it’s time to “Spring Forward” into Daylight Saving Time. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead ONE HOUR on Saturday, March 7!

# BCOG KIDS

*“Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won’t depart from it.”*

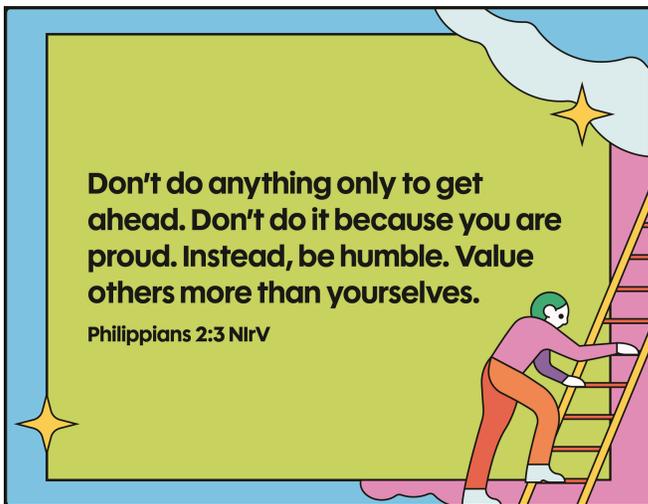
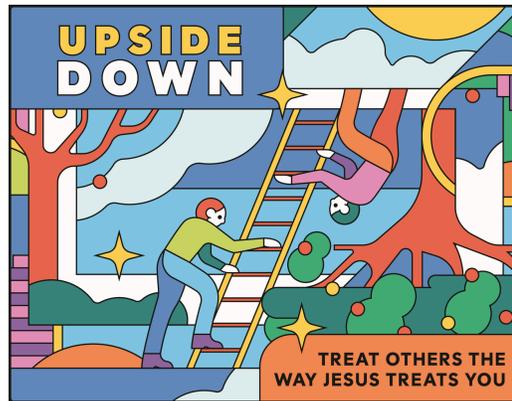
Proverbs 22:6 (CEB)

Our Children’s Ministry leaders and volunteers work to develop authentic faith in each child, through fostering a love for God, His Word, and other people. We work together to ensure that each child experiences the wonder of God, discovers who God created them to be, and develops a passion for serving others.

## This Month’s Theme



**Upside Down:  
Treat Others the Way  
Jesus Treats You**



## This Month’s Memory Verse



**Philippians  
2:3**

Each Sunday, during our 11 AM service, children PK-6<sup>th</sup> Grade are dismissed to KidZone. This program is specially designed for kids to hear exciting Bible stories, learn valuable lessons, play fun games, do crafts and build friendships with other kids! Please register your children at the Welcome Table in the lobby prior to the service.

Nursery care is also available during the 11 AM service. In addition, there is a quiet nursery upstairs and a sensory room downstairs to meet your needs.

*\*\*All children’s workers are screened for your child’s safety\*\**

## KidZone Teaching Schedule

PK-6th Grade

Sundays during 11 AM service

PK-2nd Grade

3rd-6th Grade

**Mar 1:** Keely & Ashley

**Mar 1:** Ashlynn & Pat

**Mar 8:** Dave & Vicky

**Mar 8:** Hailey & Ashlyn

**Mar 15:** Dave & Vicky

**Mar 15:** Jon & Sandy

**Mar 22:** Pam & Shari

**Mar 22:** Jon & Sandy

**Mar 29:** Pam & Shari

**Mar 29:** Hailey & Ashlyn

## Nursery Schedule

**Mar 1:** Kenzie & Cindy

**Mar 8:** Courtney & Bethany

**Mar 15:** Carrie & Janet

**Mar 22:** Holly & Makenzie

**Mar 29:** Courtney & Kenzie



## This Month’s Stories & “Bottom Lines”

**Week 1:** John the Baptist is a witness about Jesus

**Bottom Line:** Jesus must increase. I must decrease.

**Week 2:** A roman commander has faith

**Bottom Line:** Remember God is most important

**Week 3:** Be humble. Love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48)

**Bottom Line:** Love like Jesus even when it’s hard

**Week 4:** Mary & Martha

**Bottom Line:** Make time for Jesus first

**Week 5:** Palm Sunday-Jesus washes his disciples’ feet

**Bottom Line:** Jesus showed us how to be humble

# BCOG YOUTH

It's March! A month closer to spring weather!! We're still hanging out every Friday night @Youth Group;) Invite your friends and come have fun playing games, meeting new people and learning from God's Word how to navigate life. Also, you're always invited to join us every Sunday morning for church at 9 AM or 11 AM service. It's been great seeing some of our youth and their families at Sunday worship!!

Why do we celebrate Easter? What is it really all about? Let's talk about it and answer those questions together at youth group so that we know the "why" and what it means to us as a follower of Jesus.

Musicals and spring sports are coming! Let us know what you're involved in. We'd love to come cheer you on and support you;)

*Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (BCOG youth) or Instagram (bcog.youth).*

## **MARCH 2026 BCOGYOUTH CALENDAR:**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Tuesday, 3rd | McDonald's Meet Up!! 3 PM-4 PM<br>After school hangout @ McDonald's on Fairmount Ave. in Lakewood   |
| Friday, 6th  | NO Friday Night Youth @ BCOG<br>Even though we don't have regular youth group this night, we'd like to invite you and your family and friends to a family-fun night @ JCC gym, @ 6 PM. We'll be celebrating the end of season Upward Basketball and Cheer. We have a great entertainer lined up, Bruce Crevier. He's an amazing ball handler and world record holder for spinning the most basketballs at one time! This is a FREE event!! Hope you can make it:) |
| Friday, 13th | NO Friday Night Youth @ BCOG<br>Pastor Scott and Pastor Danika will be on vacation!   |
| Friday, 20th | Friday Night Youth @ BCOG, 7-9 PM<br>Making "Bunnies n' Dirt Cups"  |
| Friday, 27th | Friday Night Youth @ BCOG, 7-9 PM<br>Easter Party!!   |



## Free Food Friday Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month

Friday, March 20  
5-7 PM @ REALiFE Church

We're partnering with REALiFE Church in Jamestown to provide a free meal, once a month, to those in our community who have need. You can join us in reaching our community with the love of Jesus by donating food items, joining the team that distributes the meal, praying and sharing posts on social media.

This month's Free Food Friday is taking place from 5-7 PM on March 20. We'll be serving mac n' cheese and hot dogs! Please drop off hot dog and hot dog bun donations to the BCOG office no later than Thursday, March 19. Crockets of mac n' cheese can be brought to REALiFE Church Friday night. Thank you!



## LIVESTREAM TRAINING

Sunday, March 8  
Following the 11 AM Service



Would you be interested in serving in our livestream ministry? There will be a training session held on Sunday, March 8, following the 11 AM service. Anyone who is interested in learning to run the church livestream on Sunday mornings is welcome to come and be a part of this training. This is a vital part of the ministry we do here at BCOG and we are in need of a committed team of people who will faithfully serve in this capacity. If you do plan on attending this training, please let us know as we will be providing lunch for all who attend.

## Seasoned Souls Senior Dinner

Saturday, March 28 @ 5 PM  
At New Beginnings Restaurant

The Seasoned Souls are back from their winter hiatus and have plans for their next dinner experience! They will be meeting at New Beginnings Restaurant in Sugar Grove, PA, on Saturday, March 28, at 5 PM.

**Please sign up at the Welcome Table or on the app by March 22.**  
Questions? Contact Elaine Weaver.



## Easter Flower Order Forms Available at the Welcome Table

If you wish to order flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, Easter flower order forms are now available at the Welcome Table in the lobby. You can choose between lilies, hyacinths, tulips and daffodils. Flowers are \$11 each. If you write a check, please make it payable to Busti Church of God and mark "flowers" in the memo line.

**Please return order forms and payment to the church office by Sunday, March 15.**

You will be able to take your flowers home after the last service on Easter Sunday (April 5).



YOU'RE INVITED

to the

**UPWARD**

**CELEBRATION & AWARDS CEREMONY!**

Friday, March 6 @ 6:00 PM

at the JCC Gymnasium

with

**SIX-TIME WORLD RECORD HOLDER**

**BRUCE CREVIER**

Join us in closing out the Upward season with a night to remember!

**FREE ADMISSION!!**

**AWARDS**

Christlikeness Awards!

**BIKE GIVEAWAY**

6 new bikes from Jamestown Cycle Shop!

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Six-Time World Record Holder Bruce Crevier!

Bruce Crevier is a Six-Time World Record Holder for spinning basketballs and has spun as many as **30** basketballs simultaneously! Bruce holds the endurance record for spinning one ball the longest time . . . **22 hours & 12 minutes** without a break!!! Three of these world records were broken on national television in front of millions of people! Bruce has also had articles in numerous magazines, including Sports Illustrated and several newspapers worldwide. Bruce's TV appearances include:

- *America's Got Talent*
- *Live with Regis & Kathy*
- *NBC's Today Show*
- *The CBS Evening News*
- *CNN, Fox News, ABC News*
- *Paul Harvey Commentary*
- *BBC's Record Breakers*
- *NBA Inside Stuff*
- *The Vicki Lawrence Show*
- *ESPN*
- *The Maury Povich Show*
- *The 700 Club*
- *Canada's "100 Huntley Street"*

Bruce has traveled all over the world (to over 40 countries) performing & sharing a message of hope to this generation!



**BRUCE CREVIER - WORLD RECORD SPINNING 30 BASKETBALLS**

## Ministry Opportunities

Considering Pastor Roy and Sally's upcoming sabbatical, this is an excellent opportunity for you to contact the church office to express your willingness to step up and help with ministries like visitation of shut-ins, sending cards to people who haven't been at recent worship services, visiting those who are hospitalized, taking food to families going through a difficult time, etc.

God has called all of us to love God with our whole personality and to love our neighbors as ourselves. So, if you're not already engaged in a ministry, take this opportunity to bless others. Funny thing is, you will find yourself blessed as well!

## Council Corner

Just a reminder that our Administrative Council members are committed to providing leadership to our church in a variety of ways. Those individuals are:

### Dan Schwob - Chairperson

You can contact him, along with our Pastoral staff if you have questions or concerns about what's going on at BCOG.

### Diane Juul - Treasurer

You can contact her with any questions about the church's finances.

### Steve Sorensen - Secretary

### Courtney Spence - Trustee

You can contact her with any questions about your giving statement or about your giving in general.

### Chris Bohn - Building Deacon

You can contact him if you notice anything around the building that needs maintenance of some kind.

### David Whitford - Grounds Deacon

You can contact him regarding any matter that pertains to the outside property of the church.



# PRAYER CORNER

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."*

Colossians 4:2

We're all hoping for this cold, brutal weather to be over with. Maybe March will bring us a breath of springtime with warm sun and pretty daffodils blooming! But, whatever the weather brings, we the people that live here will take it on and struggle through because that's who we are!

This morning I was reading Gal 3 and was getting stumped on descendants of Abraham. I had to get another Bible version and read from that one to understand the word "descendants" as described in that chapter. Then, a new thought came to mind! If we have faith in Jesus Christ as God's son and our Savior, then we are descendants of Jesus, just as Jesus was a descendant of all those families listed in his heritage line and they all were the works of God! I don't know about you, but that sounds pretty wonderful to me to belong to the lineage of Jesus. I had only thought of myself as a believer but not a descendant! You might say "Duh" like either you can't believe I just realized this or you just don't believe it in that frame of mind. Reading the Bible can sometimes confuse us or it can clarify things that we were confused about before. If you haven't already, grab one of Pastor Roy's reading plans for each month. This time I'm reading in the New Living Translation and I'm saying right now that I prefer the version I read last year which was New Century Version. But, it's good to change versions once in a while, I think!

If you are new to our church, I urge you to check out the various small groups that happen every week. It's the best way to get to know us all and feel like you're a part of our church family. We welcome everyone, so don't be shy!

Our prayer team will be meeting on Mondays, March 9th and 23rd at 11:00 AM. Right now we have a group of 9 when everyone can come. I love these gals and we pray for each other as well as the requests from our church family that are posted in the Sunday bulletins. If you have something you want us to pray about, let me or Joy Smith know and it will be done!

Don't forget Daylight Savings Time is on Sunday, March 8th. Twelve days later is the first day of Spring! Whoopee!

Elaine Weaver, Prayer Coordinator

## Pray for Our Military

Garett Brown  
Jared Crandall  
Andrew Dalton  
Jonathan Dalton  
Luke DeBoer  
David Jankowski  
Matt Johnson  
Zach LaVoice  
Skyler Long  
Michael Mahane  
Zachery Miceli  
Brent Miller  
Alex Nelson  
Charlynn Proctor-Burch  
Lamonica Proctor-Burch  
Shawn Reidy  
Declan Roberts  
Matt Rowley  
Doug Sorensen  
Clarissa Steel  
Melissa Tubbs

## *Need Prayer?*

Email your prayer requests to [info@busticog.org](mailto:info@busticog.org) or fill out a prayer request form on our website or app. Let us know if a request is private or if it can be shared with the church family. For urgent prayer needs, call the church office at (716) 487-1636 or (716) 488-1254. You may also call Elaine Weaver at (716) 763-1136.

# DISCIPLESHIP

SAVE THE  
*date*

Join us for our NEW Women's Wednesday night study starting on March 25. We will be studying the book titled, Get Out of Your Head: Stopping the Spiral of Toxic Thoughts by Jennie Allen.

Are your thoughts holding you captive? This book will challenge you to exercise your God-given power to shift negative thinking patterns and take back control of your thoughts and emotions.

There's a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Please sign up by Wednesday, March 11. If you will not be at church to sign up and are interested, please let Jean Long know or you can sign up on the app. The cost of the book is \$16. Class time is 6:30 to 8 PM in Room B2/4.



## Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday - March 29

Worship Services at 9 & 11 AM

Maundy Thursday - April 2

Communion & Footwashing @ 6:30 PM

Good Friday - April 3

Brief Worship Service at Noon

Easter Sunday - April 5

Worship Services at 9 & 11 AM

DIG into  
DISCIPLESHIP 

What combined with faith  
brings value to life?

HEBREWS 4:2

## Join a BCOG Small Group!

- Sundays at 9:30 AM—The Good Grief Group in Room B8 at the church
- Sundays during 11 AM worship—KidZone for kids PK-6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays** at 7 PM—G.P.S. Women's Small Group at Sandie Kost's home (**Mar 9 & 23**)
- Prayer Group every other Monday (**Mar 9 & 23**) at 11 AM in Room B8 at the church
- Mondays 6-8 PM—*God's Healing for the Hurting* Women's Small Group led by Donne Sheldon at her home
- Mondays 6:30-8 PM—Women's Group in Room B8 at the church
- Tuesdays at 6 PM—Co-Ed Group meets at the home of Chris & Pat Bohn
- Tuesdays at 6 PM—Read Through the Bible at the home of Kenzie & John Donohue
- Wednesday Night Women's Group at 6:30 PM at the church
- Wednesday Night Men's Group at 6:30 PM at the church
- Thursdays at 11:30 AM—Women's "Bring Your Lunch" Group at the church
- Thursdays at 6:30 PM—Men's Group focused on maintaining sexual purity. Meets at the church.
- Fridays—BCOG Youth (Grades 7-12) from 7 to 9 PM at the church

rightnow MEDIA

Have you heard about RightNow Media—the Netflix of Christian media? Every person at our church has FREE access to 25,000+ Bible study videos for adults, youth & kids! Scan the QR code or TEXT our keyword BUST1 to 49775 and start streaming on your favorite device today!



## Follow BCOG on Social Media!

We're on Facebook, YouTube,  
& Instagram! Stay connected  
with your BCOG family no  
matter where you are 



We are FOR families, couples, singles, students, and children in Chautauqua County. We want to see our community thrive! So, we're dedicated to showing the love of Jesus in practical ways to those in need around us. We're also committed to praying for local churches, businesses, and families in our county because we know that God moves through those prayers to touch hearts and change lives!

Grab your very own #FORCHQ car magnet at the Welcome Table!



Worship with Us!

Sunday, March 1 at 4 PM  
&

Sunday, March 29 at 4 PM

This service is specially designed to enrich the spiritual lives of people with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and other supportive community members.

*"So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other."*

1 Corinthians 12:25

## DID YOU KNOW?

... That Rejoicing Spirits is happening both on Sunday, March 1 and Sunday, March 29 at 4 PM? The March 29 service will be our Easter service since Easter falls on the first Sunday of April.

... That the end of season Upward celebration is on Friday, March 6 at 6 PM at the JCC Athletic Center? It is free to attend.

... That Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8, which means you need to set your clocks forward before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7.

... That the Women's Connection are hosting a craft day at the church on Saturday, March 14 from 9 AM – 2:30 PM? See page 4 for more information.

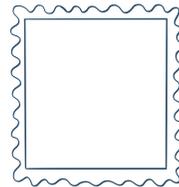
... That there is also a retirement party being held for Lana Keller in our Family Life Center from 4 – 6 PM on Saturday, March 14? See page 4 for more information.

... That Sunday, March 22 there will be a "Sabbatical Informational Meeting" in the Sanctuary between services?

... That the Seasoned Souls group (ages 50+) will meet at New Beginnings Restaurant at 5 PM on Saturday, March 28? See page 7 for more information.

... That Roy & Edna Roman will celebrate their 46<sup>h</sup> wedding anniversary on March 8<sup>th</sup>? Congratulations!

... That there is always something exciting happening around us if we'll take the time to look?



March 2026

## God Time (every day)

*"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." Matthew 6:6*

## Relational Connections (2-3 times per week)

*"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17*

## Outside Service (at least 1 hour per week)

*Jesus—"I did not come to be served but to serve" Matthew 20:28*

## Worship (weekly)

*"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25*

