



April 2019

Buffalo United Methodist Church

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



The Day My Hope Returned

~Bishop Laurie Haller

Yesterday was the day my hope returned. Since General Conference, I have been discomfited. I don't think I've ever used that word before, but it means to be made uncomfortable, uneasy, agitated, disoriented, or unable to be consoled. My heart has been aching because I have a deep investment in and commitment to The United Methodist Church, having chosen The UMC as my church home as a young adult.

I became a United Methodist because I was intrigued by the interplay between social and personal holiness and the necessity of living out our faith through mission and outreach. I was inspired by John Wesley's teachings to reform the nation and spread scriptural holiness across the land. And I was encouraged by Wesley's words to his preachers, "You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work." I have been discomfited from experiencing so many people in pain, believing that there is no longer a place for them in The United Methodist Church.

In the past several weeks, I have participated in numerous conversations at all levels of the church around the future. But it was not until yesterday that my hope returned. I woke up early to run on the treadmill before leaving for First UMC, Fort Dodge, a 90-minute drive.

It's good I left earlier than I needed to because my GPS decided to send me down a dirt road that I soon realized was not going to take me anywhere. After getting back on track, I turned off the music and enjoyed the pre-dawn silence. I remembered the words that Abba Moses, one of the great Desert fathers, would say to his monks, "Go, sit in your cell, and your cell will teach you everything."

There were almost no cars on the road at 6:45 a.m. I watched light emerge from the darkness and the sun

rise in the east, although it only lasted a minute or so before the sun vanished behind the clouds. The landscape was surreal, stark, beautiful — and wet. The farther north I drove, the more water there was, with flooding continuing across much of Iowa and some towns have been evacuated. The fields were literally lakes because of heavy rainfall and snowmelt, and I prayed for our farmers and all those affected by this historic flooding.

Arriving early at First UMC, Fort Dodge, there was plenty of time to wander around the gorgeous hundred-year-old sanctuary and also prayer-walk around the neighborhood. Pastor Andrea Kraushaar is an outstanding leader for this amazing downtown congregation that is heavily involved in outreach and mission at the local, national, and international level. Many of the laity that I met asked about General Conference. It's on everyone's hearts. Encouraging them to continue to reach out to their community and be welcoming of all people, I began to feel some glimmers of hope myself, especially when I sat with the many children in the chancel, we talked about what it means to be a difference maker, and each child received a difference maker button.

After worship, North Central District Superintendent Carol Kress, District Administrative Assistant Alanna Warren, and I drove over to Trinity UMC, the other larger church in Fort Dodge, where the district middle school/confirmation youth were gathering for the afternoon. Almost eighty youth and adults showed up, and we had to ration the pizza! Meeting with these passionate and enthusiastic youth began to renew my hope. What fun it was to hear their questions.

- *Are bishops' church services longer than most worship services? (Hm. We do tend to be long-winded.)*

- *What did you want to be when you were in high school?* (professional athlete or church musician)
- *How many marathons have you run?* (22)
- *Have you ever been on a mission trip in another country?* (Cuba, Haiti, Zimbabwe)
- *How did you leave the Mennonite Church for The United Methodist Church?* (combination of a lack of opportunities for women pastors and my husband being a United Methodist pastor)
- *What is the hardest thing about being a bishop?* (having to make difficult decisions that may harm others)
- *What is the best thing you have done as a bishop?* (I was assigned to Iowa!)

After lunch, we went to Fort Frenzy, a Family Fun Center, where I played my first game of laser tag. At least I did not come in last! The joy and enthusiasm of the youth was infectious. My hope increased as I knew that the future of The United Methodist Church is in good hands with these youth, who were so caring and accepting of everyone and readily made friends with kids from other churches.

From Fort Frenzy, we drove back to Trinity UMC for the third and final General Conference gathering. The sanctuary was full, the spirit was good, and the comments were heart-felt. Folks wanted to know the details of the Traditional Plan that passed, asked about the punitive nature of some parts of the plan, and wondered whether we will lose our young people, for most of whom human sexuality is not an issue. They also reminded me that 15,000 signatures of young people under age 35, advocating for full inclusion, were gathered overnight and shared on the last day of General Conference. . . .

I was both surprised and deeply moved that so many people acknowledged the difficult position that our bishops are in as we attempt to lead with grace and integrity for such a time as this. We covet your prayers. As I made the long drive home, I suddenly realized that I am no longer discomfited and that my hope has returned. My hope returned in Fort Dodge yesterday because [there] are young and old and of varying theological positions who are convinced that God is not yet done with The United Methodist Church and that something new is about to emerge. Is God done with us yet? I hope not.

[Bishop Haller's complete essay, posted March 18, can read on her blog *Leading from the Heart*.]

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. At Buffalo's March UMW meeting, the world-wide membership total was increased to 800,002 when we welcomed as new Buffalo UMW members Sheryl Arnett and Eileen Kaplan.

At 9:30 am on Thursday, April 18, we will join together in fellowship in the Meeting Room. Following a short business meeting, the program will be provided by Barb Crawford and Sheryl Arnett will bring the treats.

Buffalo's UMW will donate a "kitchen" basket to benefit the Family Promise program. The basket will be auctioned at the "Joyful Noises" benefit concert on April 6 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. If you would like to donate kitchen items, please contact Judy Hackney (393-0188) or Verna Cartano (432-1902).

Neighborhood Potluck

Join us for the monthly potluck on Thursday, April 11 at 11:30 am—and don't hesitate to bring along a guest. There is always scrumptious food and inspiring conversation. Place settings and beverages are provided.

Ladies Day Out!!!

This year's much-anticipated LDO will be held at Buffalo on Saturday, April 13 at 11:30 am. The theme is "Mission Earth." Reservations need to be made by April 1. The cost is \$6.00, a remarkable bargain. If you are not already signed up, immediately contact Nancy Carter (550-1627) or Marilyn Carpenter (393-3678).

Annual Rummage Sale

As you are doing your spring cleaning, please gather together unwanted items, white elephants, priceless heirlooms, Picasso original paintings, and Major League baseball trading cards from the 1950s for the annual Buffalo Rummage Sale on Thursday, June 6 (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) and Friday, June 7 (8:00 am to 1:00 pm).

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Be forewarned: this is the day before April Fools' Day.	1	2 11:00 am: Mission of Hope (Bertram UMC project)	3	4	5	6
7 8:45 am: Worship Service	8 9:00 am: Clean Church	9	10	11 11:30 am: Neighborhood Potluck	12 8:00 am: Popping Corn at Garfield	13 11:30 am: Ladies' Day Out
14 Palm Sunday 8:45 am: Worship Service	15	16	17 4:00 pm: Admin. Board Meeting	18 Maundy Thursday 9:30 am: UMW 5:30 pm: Bertram Service	19 Good Friday 5:30 pm: Good Friday Service at Buffalo	20
21 Easter 7:00 am: Sun- rise Service & Breakfast 8:45 am: Worship Service	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 8:45 am: Worship Service	29	30	<i>Done is a battle on the dragon black, Our champion Christ confoundit has his force; The yetis of hell are broken with a crack, The sign triumphal raisit is of the cross ~by William Dunbar, by a medieval Scottish poet</i>			

April Birthdays

- 1 – Bob Fish
- 3 – Verna Cartano
- 12 - Andrea Kelley
- 16 - Joyce Hartmann
- 25 – Nancy Seufferlein
- 25 – Dani Lacy

An April Wedding Anniversary

- 23 – Fred & Marlene Himes

Composting at Buffalo

We currently have four compost bins on Buffalo's property, and this spring we will be adding three more bins, enabling us to improve the quality of our garden and landscaping soil. Please feel free to contribute items to our compost piles.

Good items for compost bins:

- Leaves (preferably chopped up to speed composting)
- Grass clippings from lawns that have not been treated with herbicides or pesticides
- Organic manure from horses, cattle, chickens, and rabbits
- Non-animal food scraps: fruits, vegetables, peelings, tea leaves, coffee grounds (but not the paper filters)
- Shredded newspaper (but no glossy or coated paper)

Items that should not be added:

- Citrus and onion Peels
- Tree branches
- Synthetic fertilizers
- Fish and Meat Scraps
- Dog and cat poop
- Ash from charcoal-briquet fires

Buffalo UMC: April Events

- April 2: Mission of Hope (11:00 am); Bertram UMC
April 6: Pancake Breakfast (7:00 - 11:00 am)
April 8: Meeting of the Spic 'n Span Church Cleaning Crew (9:00 am): No prior training required.
April 11: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)
April 12: Popping corn at Garfield (8 am); profits donated to HACAP for the backpack program.
April 13: Ladies Day Out (11:30 am)
April 14: Palm Sunday
April 17: Church Board Meeting (4:00 pm)
April 18: UMW Meeting (9:30 am)
April 19: Good Friday Service (5:30 pm)
April 21: Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am; Breakfast following the service; 8:45 am regular worship service

Pastor Kathryn's Office Hours
Every Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Phone: 319-389-3187

Congratulations

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

The UMC Iowa Conference's School for Lay Ministry is a three-year program to facilitate the growth of Iowa United Methodist Churches and their Christian ministry by providing an alternative, supplemental source of educated leadership to local congregations and communities. The Buffalo congregation is thrilled to celebrate Mary Fredericksen's graduation from the School of Lay Ministries on Sunday, March 10. Best wishes, Mary, in your future ministry at Buffalo and beyond.

Buffalo Flapjack Breakfast

Don't forget to invite friends, neighbors, strangers, and relatives to the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 6, 7:00 am til 11:00 am

***A welcoming fellowship reaching out
and caring for the community.***

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