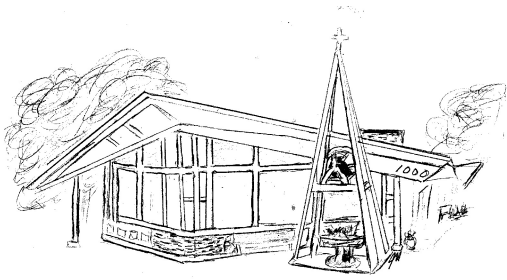


Buffalo United Methodist Church



April 2021

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



The Other Side

Bishop Laurie Haller

Do you like to experience new things? Are you always up for an adventure, or do you like to play it safe, not wanting to risk or put yourself out there? Have you ever attempted to go to “the other side”? One of my favorite scriptures is Mark 4:35-41 (CEB), where Jesus is spending the day teaching along the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The disciples are there, and people are responding. Later in the day, Jesus says, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” The words are casual, but the meaning is deep. The other side is often where those who are “other” live--those who are not like us. Jesus invites his disciples to let go of the familiar shores of Capernaum, take a risk, and head toward the foreign shores of the Gerasenes.

Other boats follow along, but soon gale winds arise and waves crash against the boat, threatening to capsize it. The disciples are terrified, but Jesus? He takes a nap! Finally, the frantic disciples wake Jesus, saying “Don’t you care about us?” Jesus says to the waters, “Be still!” and immediately the wind settles down. Then he says to his disciples, “Why are you afraid? Don’t you have faith?” And they reply, “Who is this man, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Do you ever travel to the “other side?” Do you ever risk searching for new ways to reach out to others with hope and grace, or would you rather play it safe? One of my favorite quotes is from Andre Gide, a 20th century French author and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. “One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.”

In this story, Jesus has a fruitful ministry at Capernaum on this side of the shore where he teaches parables, casts out demons, and calls Levi, the tax collector. The disciples experience a transformation and give up their old lives. But now Jesus is asking them to leave the familiar shores and go to the other side and advocate in a place where the least, the last, and the lost live.

For many years, the Iowa Annual Conference has had a presence in the Iowa State Capitol during the four months that the legislature meets. . . . The Advocacy Team determines the bills upon which we will focus, with our goal to be a voice for those who have no voice. The word “advocate” comes from the Latin *advocare*, which means “to add a voice.” An advocate is one who pleads the case of or adds a voice of support to a cause or a person, especially those considered “other.” I am deeply grateful to Brian Carter and all other members of the Advocacy Team who add their voices of support for legislation that aligns with our Book of Resolutions and Social Principles.

Our six legislative priorities for 2021 are the same as for the year 2020, and each one is vitally important. As the Iowa legislators go about their work, we are called to be their conscience by bringing to their attention:

- The degradation of our environment and how we only have one earth for which we are called to care.
- Gun safety--balancing the right to bear arms with necessary precautions around that right.
- Poverty--especially seen in the light of massive job loss due to COVID-19.

- Human Rights--raising awareness around diversity, inclusivity, and equity and responding with advocacy and justice for all who call Iowa home.
- Criminal Justice Rights and celebrating that Governor Reynolds signed an executive order last year granting convicted felons the right to vote after they complete their sentences.
- Mental Health . . . particularly concerning is the cumulative effect of COVID-19 on the mental health of children and adults throughout Iowa.

From the early beginnings of the Wesleyan movement in America, Methodist clergy and laity reached out to all people with the love and grace of Jesus Christ, especially those who were considered “other.” Our Advocacy ministry in the Iowa Annual Conference invites you to travel to the “other side” with us as we continue to advocate for health and wholeness for all, not only here in Iowa but around the world. “One does not discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.”

[A complete version of this article is available on the Bishop’s online blog *Leading from the Heart.*]

Buffalo Website

- Be sure to visit the website’s home page and click on the video performance of John Rutter’s “The Lord Bless You and Keep You,” the eight choral parts performed by one singer.
- More wonderful recipes have been added to the page of “Heavenly Recipes” on the church website, including two submissions by Sheryl in memory of her mother (a scrumptious blue cheese dressing) and Nancy (her delicious waffle cookies).
- Two recent postings to the Bison Blog are a thought-provoking article on the connections between Biblical history and how we view American history and a marvelous essay on the subject of commitment and Playtime Poppy (written by Mary Gehris, a native of Cedar Rapids and a Coe graduate).

Baked Goods

Baked items for the First Nations community food baskets should be brought to the church by noon on Wednesday, April 21. Please put six to eight cookies in a package and label the kind of cookies on the package. Diabetic baked goods are appreciated. Thanks.

Buffalo United Methodist Women

- At the March UMW meeting Lori Ampey spoke to us about the program *Saving Our Sisters*. The girls, elementary to high school age, are provided resources to assist in their transition to becoming responsible adults. Their families also receive counseling. The program is administered by Tanager Place and funded by a grant from the Cedar Rapids Foundation. We donated snacks and money for the program. The Iowa United Methodist Women has a \$1000 *Be Bold Grant* available, and we intend to apply for a grant to fund field trips for the girls.
- RADA cutlery items are still available for purchase (paring knives, peelers, dish cloths, etc.). A list of available items can be obtained from Barb Crawford (826-2468) or Marlene Himes (393-3374).
- The UMW Ingathering date is November 6, 2021. Mary Fredericksen will be in charge of assembling 15 Personal Dignity kits and 15 Student Kits. If you wish to donate money for the purchase of supplies, checks should be made out to the Buffalo UMC and indicate on the memo line that the donation is for ingathering kits.

Personal Dignity Kit

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 bath hand towel | 1 bath washcloth |
| 1 adult toothbrush | 1 bar soap – 3-4 oz |
| 1 shampoo – 15-18 oz | 1 deodorant – 2-3 oz. |
| 1 1-gallon resealable plastic bag | |

Student Kit

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 3 notebooks: 1 subject, spiral, 8” x 10 1/2 “ | |
| 1 12-inch ruler with metric markings | |
| 6 pencils – unsharpened | 1 pencil sharpener, |
| 1 eraser – 2 inches or larger | 1 box 12 colored pencils |
| 1 box 24 crayons | 1 pair of student scissors |
| 1 a handle cloth bag or a plastic grocery bag | |

- The next UMW meeting is April 15 at 9:30 am. Chris Gochenouer will provide the program.

Two Outreach Suggestions

- #1: The Little Library is visited frequently, more books are needed, and cash donations can be given to Buffalo’s trusted treasurer, Judy Hackney.
- #2: Send cards to our church members who are in care facilities or staying at home or might need a friendly hello or would welcome a reminder of God’s love and grace. Barb Crawford (826-2468) will be glad to share names and addresses.

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.</i> Hebrews 13:16				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter 7:30 am Easter Sunrise Service	5	6	7	8	9 Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox (1865)	10
11 8:45 am Worship Service	12	13	14	15 UMW Meeting (9:30 am)	16	17
18 8:45 am Worship Service	19	20 Cookie donation for First Nations due tomorrow	21 Church Cleaning (9:00 am) Administrative Board (10:00 am)	22 Earth Day	23 St. George's Day	24
25 8:45 am Worship Service	26	28	28	29	30 Arbor Day	May Day

April Birthdays: 1 – Bob Fish 12 - Andrea Kelley 16 - Joyce Hartmann
25 – Nancy Seufferlein & Dani Lacy

Wedding Anniversary: 23 - Fred & Marlene Himes

The Buffalo Gals

Spic & Span Church Cleaning Committee

The April meeting will not occur on a Monday early in the month; instead the Gals (and their Guys) will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 21. No experience or prior training is necessary. Also, a church cleaning is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on March 31 to prepare for Easter.

March's Noisy Offering

Buffalo's March donation for UMCOR totaled \$337.

Easter Morning Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m.

The service will be followed by a traditional Buffalo breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Members Only.

Summer Rummage Sale

When you are doing your spring cleaning, please save items for a summer rummage sale. The Administrative Board has not yet set a definitive date for the sale, but it's likely to occur on a warm (but not hot) sunny Thursday and Friday in June. Thanks to everyone who has already brought items to the church or is planning to do so later this spring.

*We are each other's
harvest:*

*we are each other's
business:*

*we are each other's
magnitude and bond.*

~ Gwendolyn Brooks

Report from the 145th Anniversary Planning Committee

Items discussed at the March 16 Committee meeting:

- No decision has been made on a final date; the committee is considering one of two weekends in August, either August 7 & 8 or 14 & 15.
- Bob provided committee members with three potential designs for a labyrinth; he recommended selecting a layout that is relatively simple and we might consider a tree planted in the center. Two tulip trees, a white oak, and several service berry trees have already been purchased for planting this spring.
- In addition to the dedication of the Hahn Memorial Sculpture during the celebration, the committee generated a list of people for whom we might dedicate a tree or another item in their memory: Verna Cartano,

Nancy Carter, Norm Crawford, Don Durand, Don Fish, George Gochenouer, LaReatha Hentrich, Barb Newhall, Betty Novak, Rose Studt. Please contact a committee member if you would like other individuals added to this list or you have recommendations for the committee to consider in planning this celebration.

- The next committee meeting is Tuesday, March 30, at 9:30 a.m. All members of Buffalo are welcome to attend. For this celebration to be successful, we will need everyone to pitch in and help out.

Committee members:

Barb Crawford
Chris Gochenouer
Mary Fredericksen
Bob Marrs
Pastor Kathryn Newhall.

Buffalo UMC's Mission Statement

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

**Buffalo United Methodist Church
1000 30th St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**

