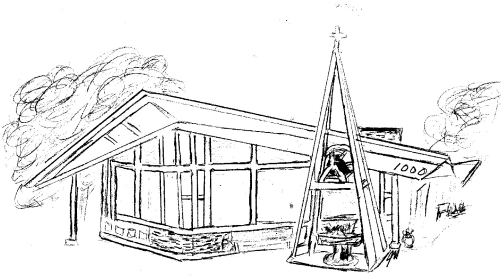


Buffalo United Methodist Church



April 2022

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Pastor Carol's Desk

As I was composing this letter, we had enjoyed a wonderful week of early spring weather. I'm hoping I don't curse our good fortune by expressing my hope for a continuation of the warm temperatures. I feel like it's time to start raking the lawn and hanging clothes out on the line.

I have been in contact with Pastor Chuck at Asbury UMC. They are planning to start an Adult-Youth group that would meet for studying the Bible, going out to eat, and doing some fun things that adults and youth can do together. We discussed this proposal at the Administrative Board meeting in March. I think this could be a lot of fun and perhaps help convince some folks to check out Buffalo. I don't know all the details (such as when the group would meet), but please contact me if you think you might be interested.

To help us celebrate Easter, I would like to suggest that the women in the church make their own Easter bonnets to wear in church on Easter Sunday. I have done this with other churches, and we had a lot of fun. We are all still young at heart; wearing your own Easter bonnet could be a creative way to express that internal joy.

I want to tell everyone what a wonderful Administrative Council we have at Buffalo. These folks are really dedicated and working hard to make Buffalo a church that is friendly and reaching out to others. I am honored to work with such a good group of people.

I encourage you to bring a friend to church. Some times it just takes a simple, personal invitation.

I do wish everyone has a wonderful Easter, with opportunities to be with family and friends. And don't forget: you never know what the Easter bunny may be leaving for you.

Blessings, Pastor Carol

Buffalo Sunday Morning Worship Services New Starting Time?

At the March meeting the Administrative Board considered moving the starting time for our Sunday morning services from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. Several members felt the later starting time might help attract new members.

The proposal before the Board is to begin a trial run on May 1 and continue for four months (May-August). Prior to a final decision on experimenting with this new time, members of the congregation are invited to express their opinions, questions, concerns, or recommendations to the Chair of the Board, Margie Marrs (email: mmarrs@coe.edu; home phone: 319-362-9494). A vote on whether to proceed with the new starting time would occur at the next Board meeting in April.

Planting Trees in April

Assuming the trees arrive as scheduled and the weather cooperates, we will be planting 19 trees on the church property the first week in April: a Bur Oak, a Pin Oak, a Northern Red Oak, a Tulip Tree, a White Pine, 2 River Birch, 3 Eastern Red Cedar, 4 Downy Serviceberry, and 5 Chokecherry. If you would like to help with this planting, contact Bob Marrs (email: rmarrs@coe.edu; home phone: 319-362-9494).

Logo for United Women in Faith
(new name for United Methodist Women)



United
Women
in Faith

A Letter in Support of the United Methodist Church

When the United Methodist Church postponed the General Conference scheduled for later this year, several Methodist clergy and congregations announced that they had decided to proceed with their plans to initiate a new denomination, titled the Global Methodist Church. The driving motivation behind this new denomination is to resist the full inclusion of LGBTQIA individuals in the life of the church. More than 275 General Conference delegates and other church leaders (including 22 clergy and lay leaders from Iowa) released an open letter March 18 expressing their belief in the UMC's future and their commitment to remain with the denomination. Copied below are excerpts from that letter.

*"God will command his angels to protect you
wherever you go." Psalm 91:11*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We greet you in the loving name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We recognize that the recent postponement of the General Conference may leave some with feelings of powerlessness, abandonment, and anxiety. We hold our entire church in our hearts and prayers and commit to healing the wounds that have been caused by our division.

- We hold in our hearts our LGBTQIA siblings and commit to the celebration and welcome of all God's children, now.
- We commit to prayerfully and steadfastly dismantling the sins of racism, tribalism and colonialism.
- We envision and will work toward a church that is regional in structure, where United Methodists in Africa, Europe, the Philippines and North America can do ministry based on their own cultural context.
- We commit to practicing Wesley's advice—"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" Recognizing the theological and cultural diversity in our church, we commit to moving forward with a focus on the ministry that unites us. . . .

We join our voices with our bishops to confirm that we are "...one people, rooted in Scripture, centered in Christ, serving in love and united in the essentials." As they noted, our United Methodist Church was founded on a Wesleyan theology of grace and the witness of Jesus Christ. Guided by the Scriptures, we are a people empowered and emboldened by the Holy Spirit.

As we do the work and ministry ahead, we will hold onto our identity as a people of God committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We will work toward making sure that all feel they belong and are loved in our church. We will continue to claim our place as a powerful connection, with more than 12 million members worldwide, carrying out the mission of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit. And, we will continue to be a church where people can have a deeply personal and communal experience of our triune God.

With so many possibilities facing our beloved denomination, we pray that this letter finds you well. We look forward to a bright and exciting future together.

* * * * *

Issues Addressed at the March Administrative Board Meeting

- In her Trustees Report, Becky Durand reported that Hawkeye Fire and Safety replaced some fire extinguishers during their inspection. Becky will contact the local fire department to set up an inspection time and to determine if we need smoke detectors in the sanctuary and group meeting room.
- The Board approved the repair and maintenance costs for the church's lawn mower. Although 8 years old, it is still in good shape and should provide us many years of reliable service.
- The Board requested Becky to investigate the cost of new chips and landscape timbers for the playground and to locate a vendor for cleaning the church carpets and the floor in the fellowship hall.
- There may be some asbestos that will need removal in the furnace room. Gary Hackney will obtain cost estimates from professionals with the equipment and skills to do this work.
- The Board approved hiring Todd Tompkins to design and construct a 20" x 30" walnut memorial plaque to honor past members of the congregation.
- The Board discussed the issue of Board membership. All members of the congregation are welcome to participate in Board meetings, but it was felt we should have written guidelines to specify the voting Board members. Chair Margie Marrs agreed to do some further research on this matter and at the April meeting will propose a set of guidelines for determining Board membership and voting privileges.

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“The more one does and sees and feels, the more one is able to do, and the more genuine may be one's appreciation of fundamental things like home, and love, and understanding companionship.” – Amelia Earhart</p>					<p>1 April Fools' Day</p>	<p>2 Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale (8:00 - 11:00 am)</p>
<p>3 8:45 am Worship Service <i>Communion</i> Sunday</p>	4	<p>5 Pastor Carol's Office Hours (9-11 am)</p>	6	<p>7 Bible Study (9:30 am)</p>	8	9
<p>10 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Worship Service</p>	11	<p>12 Pastor Carol's Office Hours (9-11 am)</p>	<p>13 Clean Church (9:00 am)</p>	<p>14 Bible Study (9:30 am) Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)</p>	<p>15 Good Friday</p>	16
<p>17 Easter 7:00 am Sunrise Service, Breakfast, & Worship</p>	18	<p>19 Pastor Carol's Office Hours (9-11 am)</p>	<p>20 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 am)</p>	<p>21 United Women in Faith--UMW (9:30 am)</p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p>	23
<p>24 8:45 am Worship Service <i>Gold Cross Offering</i></p>	25	<p>26 Pastor Carol's Office Hours (9-11 am)</p>	27	28	29	30

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

Wedding Anniversaries: 23 – Fred & Marlene Himes

Don't Forget

- Oodles of Noodles (\$2.75 for a 12 oz bag) will be available for purchase at the Pancake Breakfast on April 2. Thanks to everyone who helped prepare the noodles for sale.
- The Spring Bible Study, conducted by Pastor Carol, will be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 7 and 14. The study features women of the Bible. Everyone is invited, even if you missed the two March meetings.
- Hungry friends and family members are all welcome to join us at the Neighborhood Potluck* on Thursday, April 14 at 11:30 am. Beverages and tableware will be provided. [*According to Merriam-Webster, "potluck" is one word, not "pot luck," and was first used in 1592.]

- We continue to collect Hy-Vee receipts for Garfield Elementary School. You can deposit your receipts in a large glass jar in the back of the sanctuary.
- The Ecumenical Center needs donations of money, personal care items, clothing, toilet tissue, dish soap, and dry laundry soap. Judy Hackney (319-393-0188) will be glad to transport the donations.

Noisy Offering: Last Sunday in April

Our annual Golden Cross offering is used for health and welfare ministries in the Iowa annual conference. Pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, silver dollars, dollar bills (from \$1 to \$100), personal checks : all are welcome.

Buffalo Calendar

- April 2 (Saturday): Pancake Breakfast
(8:00 - 11:00 a.m.)
- April 7 (Thursday): Spring Bible Study (9:30 a.m.)
- April 10 (Sunday): Palm Sunday Worship Service
(8:45 a.m.)
- April 14 (Thursday): Spring Bible Study (9:30 a.m.)
Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)
Maundy Thursday Service at Bertram UMC
(5:30 p.m.)
- April 17 (Sunday): Easter Morning Sunrise Service
(7:00 a.m.), followed by Sunrise Breakfast
(7:30 a.m.) & regular Sunday Morning Worship
Service (8:45 am)

Events later in the year

- Rummage Sale: Thursday & Friday, June 9-10
- Ice Cream Supper: Saturday, July 23
- Bazaar with Lunch: October 22

Interview with Methodist Minister in Ukraine

Posted on the "UMC Connections" page of Buffalo's website (<http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>) is an interview with a young UMC minister in Lviv, Ukraine discussing the impact of the war on his church.

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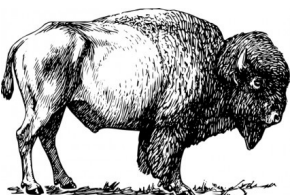
United Women in Faith

Beginning the first week in March, the organization known as the United Methodist Women will now function under a new name: United Women in Faith. The change in title does not reflect any fundamental change in the group's commitment to the needs of women, children, and youth.

Everyone is invited to the April meeting on Thursday, April 21 at 9:30 a.m. Eileen Kaplan will provide the program after a short business meeting. Barb Oakland, our district shepherdess, will attend the meeting, and the group is looking forward to her words of wisdom. In our March meeting Judy presented a program "The Now is Here," examining the decision by some churches to leave the United Methodist Church.

Senior Exercise Class at Buffalo?

Several individuals have expressed interest in starting an exercise class that would meet at Buffalo. These sessions would involve low impact and chair exercises and not require any special equipment. Participating in a class would require a minimum of a six-week commitment. If you are interested, please contact Carla Lindball (319-393-6892).



Since 1876