

# Buffalo United Methodist Church

April 2024

1000 30<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



## Pastor Carol's Desk

Here we are in Spring already. I'm composing this message for the April newsletter just as we have received several inches of wet, heavy snow. This is why we love Iowa. We never know what we will be getting. But the snow is OK. We need the moisture.

I have seen some flowers up already, including many daffodils at Buffalo. These blooms remind us how great our God is. We are surrounded by so much beauty of flowers and trees budding out. We are so blessed by the gifts God has given us.

Our walk with the Lord is not always going to be easy, but when we have God by our side, we are never alone. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are never alone. God gives us love, God gives us hope. There will be times when Satan, who can appear in many disguises, will try and tempt us, but when that happens we need to say, "Satan, get behind us. We are walking with God."

Jesus Christ said follow me, reminding us we are all children of God. When we follow Jesus, we will find contentment. As we often proclaim in our Sunday morning worship service, "God is good all the time. . . ."

*Blessings,  
Pastor Carol*

## Administrative Board: March Meeting

At the Administrative Board's meeting on March 20, the following issues were addressed and actions taken:

- Buffalo's funeral policy was reviewed and updated.
- The Director of Feed Iowa First has informed us that two men have volunteered to take care of the vegetable and herb garden this summer.

- We are still looking for one or more volunteers to help with flowers, rain garden maintenance, watering trees, and landscaping projects for the summer. Carla Lindball will continue to care for two flower beds in front of the church.
- The second week in April "That Girl" Tree Care will be removing the Tree of Heaven by the shed and clean up two damaged Hackberry trees.
- The installation of the outdoor worship space in front of the Hahn Memorial will occur in the last two weeks in April. This project will be paid for with money from the memorial fund, the land condemnation fund, the general fund, and free-will donations.
- This spring new flowers, shrubs, and ornamental grasses will be planted between the fellowship hall and the parking lot.
- The Board discussed sponsoring an outdoor concert at the Hahn Memorial this summer. A decision was postponed until after it is known when the landscaping project will be completed.
- The Evangelism Committee proposed scheduling a Spring Fling Market in April. Vendors would pay a fee of \$20 per table. The Board approved funds for initiating and advertising this project.
- Judy Hackney distributed copies of a Safe Sanctuary Policy that the Board needs to review and approve at the next annual Charge Conference.
- The Board approved Joyce Hartmann's gift of a 32-inch TV with DVD player.
- After a vigorous discussion, the Board decided the profits from April's Pancake Breakfast will be given to Green Square Meals and the Mission of Hope.
- The Board discussed a proposal for a celebration honoring the contributions of long-term Buffalo church members. A three-person committee (Kim Griffith, Jo Lutz, and Linda Otto) was appointed to plan such an event, possibly in September.

## 2024 General Conference

General Conference will meet April 23-May 3, 2024 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The General Conference was originally scheduled to meet in Minneapolis in 2020, but the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until this spring. Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which will include 862 delegates and another 7,000 people as observers, registration officials, pages, translators, guides, musicians, technicians, reporters, exhibitors, vendors, emergency responders, etc. Meeting every four years, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. The United Methodist Book of Discipline, updated every four years, incorporates changes made by General Conference.

The changing global nature of the church is evident in the rapidly growing membership in “central conferences”—a label for classifying churches in Africa, Asia and Europe. Voting delegates will come from the United States (55.9%), Africa (32%), the Philippines (6%), Europe (4.6%) and concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church (1.5%). Half will be clergy, half lay.

### Three Major Issues Facing the General Conference

#### Regionalization

The effort to put The United Methodist Church’s different geographic regions on equal footing crossed a critical threshold in August 2023 when the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters unanimously approved proposed legislation for the denomination’s worldwide regionalization.

The regionalization proposal aims to address what many United Methodists see as a longstanding problem limiting the denomination’s missional effectiveness — namely, that the church in the U.S. and the central conferences have unequal standing in decision-making. At present, the U.S. tends to be the default to which central conferences must adjust.

#### Reduced Budget

In May 2023, the GCFA board proposed a 2025-28 denominational budget of approximately \$370.5 million. This new bottom line marks a nearly 40% reduction from the budget that General Conference approved in

2016. The proposal requires significant cuts to all funds that support denomination-wide ministries. Local churches provide a share of church giving—called apportionments—to annual conferences, church regional bodies that in turn pay apportionments to ministries supported through the denominational budget the General Conference adopts. The U.S. provides the bulk of funding for these denomination-wide ministries.

#### Same-Sex Weddings and “Self-Avowed Practicing” Gay Clergy

In all of the 2023 jurisdictional conferences and many of the annual conferences, U.S. United Methodists signaled their desire for the denomination to become more LGBTQ-welcoming. As they expressed openness to change some denominational policies, several annual conferences also reaffirmed that United Methodists remain steadfast in their commitment to core Christian doctrines. In 2023, several conferences began their sessions by approving requested church exits. After completing that painful work, many of the U.S. annual conferences showed an eagerness to move toward a more inclusive future focused on the good that United Methodists can do together in the name of Christ.

The Book of Discipline, the denomination’s law book, prohibits United Methodist clergy from officiating at same-sex marriage or union ceremonies, and prohibits United Methodist bishops from licensing, commissioning, ordaining, appointing, or consecrating as a bishop anyone who is found to be a “self-avowed practicing homosexual.” Only General Conference can alter these bans.

Altogether, 22 U.S. annual conferences passed resolutions supporting the removal of anti-LGBTQ language in the Discipline. The annual conference resolutions follow all five U.S. jurisdictions’ approval in 2022 of similarly worded petitions that aspire to a future United Methodist Church “where LGBTQIA+ people will be protected, affirmed, and empowered in the life and ministry of the church.”

For more information on the General Conference, please visit <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN MINDS. OPEN DOORS.

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	1 Noodle Making (8:00 am)	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship Service & Communion (9:00 am)	8 National Library Week (donate a book to Little Free Library)	9	10 Clean Church (9:00 am)	11 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	12	13 Pancake Breakfast & Bake/Noodle Sale (8-11 am)
14 Worship Service (9:00 am) Noisy Offering	15	16	17 Tomorrow is Tax Day!	18 United Women of Faith (9:30 am)	19	20
21 Worship Service (9:00 am)	22 Earth Day	23 First Day of UMC General Conference in N. Carolina	24	25	26 Arbor Day	27 Spring Craft & Vendor Fair (9 am - 4 pm)
28 Worship Service (9:00 am)	29	30	<i>"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all." ~Acts 4:33</i>			

**April (and early May) Birthdays:** 1 - Bob Fish                      11 - Helen Morris  
 16 Joyce Hartmann                      25 - Dani Lacy                      25 - Nancy Seufferlein  
**May:** 1 - Sue Ballentine & Judy Hackney

**Wedding Anniversaries:** No anniversaries in April.

*A happy marriage is the union of two good forgivers. -Robert Quillen*

## April's Special Offering

On Sunday, April 14 we will collect a Noisy Offering for Native American Ministries. This offering will be used to support Iowa Conference programs serving Native Americans. A total of \$368 was collected for the United Methodist Committee on Relief special offering in March.

## Church Cleaning

Come help clean the church on Wednesday, April 10, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We are usually finished by 10:30 a.m. No special skills are required.

## Neighborhood Potluck

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 11 for our monthly Neighborhood Potluck. Feel free to bring along a friend, neighbor, relative, or anyone who might benefit from a good meal and good conversation. As always, beverages and tableware will be provided.

## Help Making Noodles

Join us at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, April 1 to make noodles for the upcoming bake sale in conjunction with the annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 13. Any amount of time you can help is appreciated.

## Buffalo Calendar

- April 1: Noodle Making (8:00 a.m.)  
10: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)  
11: Monthly Potluck (11:30 a.m.)  
13: Annual Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale  
w/noodles (8:00 – 11:00 a.m.)  
18: United Women in Faith (9:30 a.m.)  
26: Card/Game Playing in Meeting Room  
(12:30 p.m.)  
27: Spring Craft & Vendor Fair  
(9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Note: Because Buffalo is a polling location for Iowa's June 4 primary election, the dates of our annual rummage sale have been changed to Thursday, June 13 and Friday, June 14.

## World Day of Prayer

Thanks to Pastor Carol and Dani Lacy for conducting the World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 1. And a special thanks to Eileen Kaplan for playing the piano. The service featured scripture, hymns, and a timely message.

## Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 13 (8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

Come and enjoy Pancakes, Eggs, Ham  
Coffee, Juice, and Milk

**The Breakfast is free.**

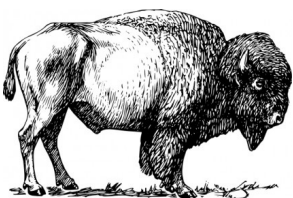
Monetary donations will be used to benefit  
*Green Square Meals* and the *Mission of Hope*  
Homemade noodles for sale.

For the Pancake Breakfast we will need volunteers to make scrambled eggs, stir pancake batter, cook the pancakes, prepare the ham, dispense beverages, clear the tables, wash the dishes, clean the kitchen, etc. If you wish to volunteer, please enter your name on the sign-up sheets at the church or contact Judy Hackney (319-393-0188) or Chris Gochenouer (319-363-5000).

## United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 18. There will be a short business meeting followed by a timely program presented by Becky Durand.

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**Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**



**Since 1876**

Church Website: <http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>