



Buffalo United Methodist Church



April 2017

What is Saving Your Life Right Now?*

As the four of us sat down for an extended lunch recently, one of my friends asked, “What is saving your life right now?” We sighed, laughed, and began to reflect, all of us United Methodist clergy women. We didn’t bother trying to unpack what the question meant because we instinctively knew.

What is it that keeps you going during this uncertain time in our denomination, country, and world? How can we live fully when others are living in fear, refugee families are desperate to find safety, friends are reduced to poverty because of medical debt, and racial/ethnic tensions continue to simmer? What does Jesus mean in Matthew 16:25 when he says, “For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

What is saving my life? Let me count the ways.

- Visiting the Detroit Zoo with my three friends on a spring-like February day and running into a former church member, who was carrying on his back a six-year-old Syrian refugee boy sponsored by the church. What joy was on his face!
- Hearing about a church that made several hundred paper hearts for Valentine’s Day and delivered them to a nearby Muslim congregation.
- Celebrating both Christmas and Hanukkah with our Christian family and our son-in-law’s Jewish family. Talking about how we are all obligated to advocate for those who are on the margins, for we rise and fall together.

- Reading books that deepen my faith, challenge my mind, and inspire me to make a difference: *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce, and *A Life of Being, Having, and Doing Enough* by Wayne Muller
- Meeting with various groups in my travels who are asking, “How can we be people of faith in the times in which we live, especially when our own families are divided?”
- Spending time with United Methodist college students who are grateful for a safe place to explore their faith and do not hesitate to make their voice heard.
- Walking through a botanical garden and marveling at the variety of God’s world, including the sausage tree, which is sacred to many communities. . . .
- Observing how people are learning to dialogue about difficult issues in ways that are not defensive, accusatory or mean but rather honor others.
- Driving across Iowa on I-80 and listening to the splendid symphonies and symphonic dances of Sergei Rachmaninoff.
- Discussing theology with my new six-year-old friend Kinnick from Council Bluffs, who asked what a bishop is and then prayed for me in worship the next day. . . .

**This is an excerpt from a March 20 blog posting by Rev. Laurie Haller, Bishop for the UMC’s Iowa Conference. A link to the Bishop’s weekly blogs, including the complete text of this essay, can be found on the “Connections” page of the Buffalo UMC website.*

Popping Corn at Garfield

The next popping date is Friday, April 21st at 8 am. Four volunteers are needed to open bags, bag the popcorn and deliver the ordered popcorn to the classrooms. This usually takes about 2 hours. If you are interested and would like to help, talk to the popcorn maker, Marlene Himes, or Chris Gochenouer (363-5000). Through March, \$466 has been donated to HACAP from popping corn.



Easter Treat Bags for Backpack Students

We will assemble treat bags for the 36 backpack students at Garfield School for Easter. Please have the treats at church by Sunday, April 9. Wrapped candy, packaged snacks, granola bars, pencils, small toys are appreciated.



"Spring Fling" for the Ladies of the Church Saturday, April 29 at 11:30 am

Ladies, come to the Spring Fling, bring your favorite girl (or girls), and enjoy an event with good eating and great fellowship. The cost to attend is \$6.00--with all the proceeds going to the church. The annual Spring Fling is an opportunity, even when times are tough, to reflect on how God is helping you in your life. RSVP by April 15 to:

Nancy Carter 319 550-1627 (leave a message) or
Marlee Carpenter 319 393-3678

Buffalo UMC Board Meeting

March 15, 2017

Items discussed at the board meeting included:

- Windows for the Sanctuary – the trustees will look into the three bids for new windows and will decide which company to use.
- How much would it cost to replace the shed? The cost of a new shed will be investigated.
- Memorial money will be used to purchase a bench near the vegetable garden.
- Pancake Breakfast profit (after expenses) will be given to the RISE Program and the Ecumenical Center.



Buffalo UMC: Events for 2017

June 8 & 9 – Rummage Sale

July 15 – Ice Cream Supper, 4 – 7:00 pm

October 14 – Fall Bazaar, 8 am – 3:00 pm

October 29 – Trunk or Treat ,4 – 5:00 pm

Bertram UMC: Events for 2017

April 30 – Spring Supper; Bertram Township Hall

August 19 – Bertram Homecoming; Bertram City Park

August 20 – Worship in the Park; Bertram City Park

October 14 –Fall Supper; Bertram Township Hall

Other Upcoming Dates

April 9 - Palm Sunday

April 16 - Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 7:00 am;
Breakfast (7:45 am). Regular Service at 8:45 am

April 29 – Annual “Spring Fling” (for the ladies) at 11:30 am





Mission of Hope
Tuesday, April 4

LaReatha Jane Hentrich
October 29, 1940 - March 05, 2017

If you would like to serve the noon meal at the Mission of Hope, please contact Barb Crawford @ 378-4258. The Mission of Hope address is 1700 B Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. The May serving date will be Tuesday, May 2.

Monetary donations are needed to purchase the food served monthly and to pay for operating costs of the Mission of Hope. Checks can be made out to Buffalo UMC and a check will be sent to the MOH.

There is a box in the back of the sanctuary for Mission of Hope donations. Current ministry needs include the following:

Food Pantry

- Canned* Meats (Chicken, Ham, Spam, Tuna, Salmon, etc)
 - Dried Meats (jerky, etc)
 - Apples & Oranges
 - Canned* Fruits & Vegetables
 - Canned* Ravioli/Spaghetti
 - Mac & Cheese
 - Side Dish Mix Pouches
 - Salt/Pepper/Seasonings
 - Pancake Mix/Syrup
 - Cooking Oil
 - Crackers/Juice
 - Peanut Butter
 - Instant & Dry Cereal
 - Canned* Soups & Broth
 - Pasta Sauces
 - Instant Potatoes
 - Rice/Beans/Pasta
 - Sugar/Flour
 - Cake Mixes/Frosting
 - Protein Bars/Snack Items
- *Pull-tab cans are preferred.

Non-Food Items

- Toilet Paper/Tissues/Paper Towels
- Paper Plates
- Disposable Cups/Silverware
- Laundry Detergent Pods
- Razors/Shaving Cream
- Shampoo/Conditioners
- Towels (Bath/Hand/Kitchen)
- Copier Paper (20 lb)
- Tape, Pens, Post-It Notes, Paper Clips, File Folders
- Soap: Dish/Liquid Hand
- Trash Bags (all sizes)
- Toothpaste/Tooth Brushes
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene
- Pillows/Twin Sheets
- Letter Paper (28 lb)

LaReatha Hentrich, 76, of Cedar Rapids, died Sunday, March 5, 2017 at home surrounded by her family. Her body was donated to the University Of Iowa Deeded Body Program.

LaReatha is survived by her husband, Hepburn; three sons: Curt (Cynthia) Hentrich of Spring, TX, Gregory (Laurie) Hentrich of Hiawatha, and Joel (Cheryl) Hentrich of North Liberty; grandchildren: Maggie (Louis IV) Evans, Brandon Garrett, Gabriel (Stephanie) Garrett, Michael Hentrich, Ryan Hentrich, Jenna Hentrich, Ashley Hentrich, Bethany Hentrich, Catherine Hentrich, Jacqueline Hentrich, Nicholas Hentrich; and great grandchildren: Alayna Evans, Louis V Evans, Lucy Evans, Gavin Garrett, Alec Garrett, Lucas Garrett.

LaReatha Jane was born on October 29, 1940, in rural Elberon, the daughter of George W. and Ethel Shuck Cunningham. She married Hepburn H. Hentrich in rural Benton County on September 10, 1960.

When her children were in school, LaReatha was an active homeroom mother, involved in the YMCA Indian Guides. For 13 years she was known as “Tag Along” when working with the St. Luke’s clown connection. LaReatha loved sewing for her granddaughters, and creating quilts for the Iowa Hawkeye coaches, as well as women and children in need. She enjoyed decorating for Christmas and baking her special sugar cookies, cinnamon rolls, and garlic toast. LaReatha will be missed by her family and many friends. *[Edited version of the Teaben Funeral Home Obituary.]*



Please submit May newsletter items by Monday, April 24 to Bob Marrs (rmarrs@coe.edu).

April Buffalo Calendar



April 2017						
March						May
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Mission of Hope	5	6	7	8
9 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10	11	12	13 Golden Age Potluck (11:30 am)	14	15 Spring Fling RSVP deadline
16 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Sunrise Service & Breakfast (7:00 am)	17	18	19 Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)	20 United Methodist Women (9:30 am)	21 Popping Corn at Garfield (8:00 am)	22
23	24 May newsletter submission deadline	25	26	27 NOOMA Bible Study	28	29 The Ladies' Spring Fling (11:30 am)
30 Bertram Spring Supper	Notes:					

April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

6 – Don & Becky Durand
 30 – Ward & Nancy Seufferlein

**A Big “Thanks”
 to everyone who helped
 with Buffalo’s
 Great Pancake Breakfast
 on March 25.**

Marilyn Robinson's First Appearance on the Bison Blog

After a three-week vacation, the Bison Blog has begun a new round of submissions. A recent posting is a marvelous short essay by an Iowa City writer, Marilyn Robinson (author of the novels *Homecoming* and *Gilead*, the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction winner). You can read her essay "What We May Be" by going to the Bison Blog page on the church website: buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com.



Buffalo Facebook

Remember we now have a Facebook page. It is called Buffalo United Methodist Church and is a good way to keep in touch with the life of the church. Don't hesitate to submit your news items:

www.facebook.com/groups/1192792444092651



Don't Forget the Compost Bins behind the Garden Shed

Good composting candidates include coffee & tea grounds, egg shells, uncooked vegetables and fruit.

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

Gardening Volunteers

In April we will be starting the Buffalo Vegetable/Herb Garden and doing some substantial landscaping, which will include planting native grasses and flowers (both perennials and annuals). Contact Bob Marris (362-9494, rmarris@coe.edu, or in person) if you want to help with any of these gardening projects.

If the weather cooperates, we will begin serious soil preparation and planting on Palm Sunday afternoon, April 9. The plan is to establish 2-3 times each week when folks can garden together; however, there will be plenty of gardening tasks for individuals who need to work on their own schedule. We should have sufficient equipment for beginning this project; however, donations (such as spades, hoes, shovels, rakes, etc) are welcome.

If you know any children who might enjoy putting seeds in the ground and watching what happens, please encourage their parents or guardians to make it possible for them to join us.