



# Buffalo United Methodist Church

August 2019

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



## The Risk of Going Too Far

Bishop Laurie Haller

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." This quote from T.S. Eliot has been one of my personal core values for years. As a pastor and now a bishop, I have often wrestled with knowing when to play it safe or venture out on a limb, when to be quiet or speak out, and when to hold back or go for it. In order to be faithful to our call as disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world, there are risks that we must be willing to take.

Occasionally, I have conversations with both laity and clergy about the role and importance of risk pastoral ministry, specifically:

- The risk of being transparent and vulnerable
- The risk of clergy and laity sharing ministry together
- The risk of failing
- The risk of talking openly about stewardship as a spiritual discipline
- The risk of advocating for the importance of our United Methodist Connection
- The risk of valuing diversity and welcoming differences
- The risk of challenging others to a deeper walk with God
- The risk of taking time away to nurture mind, body, and spirit
- The risk of seeking out a spiritual director
- The risk of being open to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit
- The risk of engaging in dialogue around current issues from a biblical and theological perspective

- The risk of leading through adaptive change and necessary endings
- The risk of saying, "I'm sorry"

In my experience as a runner, I have discovered that when I am participating in a long-distance race, I face choices every step along the way. When my body starts screaming, "Stop!" it's my mind that tells my body to ignore the pain and keep going. Later, when my mind is no longer functioning clearly and my body begins to shut down, it's ultimately my heart that wills me to risk putting one step in front of another and making it to the end. Giving up is not in my DNA, but risking is.

Going too far. It's risky business, isn't it? Not just in athletics, but in our personal, relational, and spiritual lives as well. I was introduced to a work of art a few months ago titled Resurrection II, by American sculptor and Lutheran Paul Granlund (1925-2003). The sculpture depicts the moment of Christ's resurrection where he breaks out of the burial place that has held him in death and rises to new life. It's as if, on the third day, Jesus has decided to take the risk of gathering up his wings to fly from all that has held him in the tomb. . . .

Are we in The United Methodist Church able to release ourselves from who we have been in the past and do a new thing? Can we rise up from our decades-long insistence on drawing the battle lines around human sexuality, which keeps us mired in our tombs and alienates us from many in the world who see us as irrelevant?

Can we allow one another the freedom to celebrate the various ways in which we . . . send disciples of Jesus Christ out into the world rather than keep one another bound in chains? Would we prefer to keep Jesus in the tomb rather than see him as a liberating, freeing, empowering God who always risks going too far out of love for you and me? . . .

Is it possible to embrace different ideas in our local churches when we are stuck in our tombs of insularity? . . . Might we create beloved community by intentionally seeing all people as created in God's image and being willing to learn from one another?

How does our Wesleyan understanding of the radical nature of prevenient, justifying, sanctifying, and liberating grace for all inform our theology, attitudes, and actions? What might happen if we loosened the screws of the tombs of our fears, doubts, and stereotypes and boldly rise to something different in The United Methodist Church, something only God alone can see right now? I can't help but believe that another way of being Wesleyan is waiting to emerge: a way that liberates, empowers, and embodies the grace of Jesus Christ for all people.

In John Wesley's sermon, "The Character of a Methodist," he claims that a Methodist is:

- One who has the love of God shed abroad in his heart;
- One who cannot but rejoice, having peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;
- One who has the hope of immortality;
- One who prays without ceasing;
- One who loves and does good to neighbors and friends, strangers and enemies;
- One who is pure in heart and shows mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, long-suffering, and forgiveness;
- One who seeks to please God and keep God's commandments

Wesley writes, "Is thy heart right, as my heart is with thine? I ask no farther question. If it be, give me thy hand." The risen Christ told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to let loose. As we, too, wait for Pentecost, could it be that the only risk of going too far is to take the hand of our neighbor?

*[The Bishop's complete text is available on her blog Leading from the Heart, posted on May 28, 2019.]*



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

## **Marlene Glandorf In Memoriam**

Marlene Glandorf, 86, of Hiawatha, died peacefully Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at the Vinton Lutheran Home in Vinton. Her memorial service was held on Saturday, July 13, at Buffalo.

Survivors include her sons, Randy (Jayne) of Cedar Rapids and Scott (Donna) Glandorf of Canton, Georgia; grandchildren, BJ (Tracy) and Joshua (Kari) Glandorf and Matthew Glandorf (McKenzie Jones); great-grandchildren, Brice and Caleb Glandorf and Jack, Noland, and Stella Glandorf; siblings, Judy (Rodney) Oaks and Marvin Bricker (Deb Wilson); many extended family members and friends.

Marlene Mae Bricker was born May 22, 1933, in Williamsburg, Iowa to Marvin and Lareta (Lewis) Bricker. She attended Williamsburg High School, graduating in a class with twelve classmates. She met Harlan Glandorf in high school, and they were married July 8, 1953. They raised two boys, Randy and Scott, and owned Glandorf Auction Service. Marlene's love of antiques shone through all of the auctions, estate sales, and tag sales she organized. She also enjoyed embroidery and sewing.

Marlene was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Harlan. You may share your support and memories with Marlene's family on her tribute wall under obituaries at [www.stewartbaxter.com](http://www.stewartbaxter.com).

# August 2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
According to some authorities, Ice Cream sundaes were invented when Methodist ministers complained about selling ice-cream sodas on Sundays in Evanston, Illinois during the late 19th century. To get around the problem, some clever entrepreneurs replaced the soda with syrup and called the dessert an "Ice Cream Sunday." They replaced the final "y" with an "e" to avoid upsetting the Methodists.				1	2	3 Ice Cream Social (4-7:00 pm)
4 8:45 am: Worship Service <i>Communion</i> <i>Sunday</i>	5	6	7	8 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	9	10
11 8:45 am: Worship Service	12 9:00 am: Meeting of the Spic 'n Span Church Cleaning Crew	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:45 am: Worship Service	19	20	21 Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)	22	23	24
25 8:45 am: Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August Birthdays

10 – Hugh Weis  
12 – Cameron Kelley  
17 – Jamie Fredericksen  
23 – Pauline Hall

## August Wedding Anniversaries

24 – Tom & Pat Ferguson

*If you are reading this paragraph before Saturday, August 3 and you have not yet signed up to help with the Ice Cream Supper, be assured it's not too late. See Barb and she will make sure your services are well utilized.*

## UMW Fun Day

Five of us enjoyed our UMW Fun Day on July 18. The day began with an informative visit to the Iowa Masonic Library and Museum in Cedar Rapids, one of the largest Masonic libraries in the world incorporating three museum collections. After a yummy lunch of sandwiches and salad at Matthew 25--Groundswell, we completed the day with an enlightening introduction to Iowa's rich history at the recently renovated History Center.

## Mission Recognition Recipient

Allison Hall received the Mission Recognition Pin for 2018. A donation was sent from our UMW in Allison's honor for undesignated giving from our unit. We are fortunate to have Allison as a member of our UMW and church.

**Important Dates**  
**Buffalo August Calendar**

- Aug. 3 (Saturday): Ice Cream Supper (4:00-7:00 pm)  
Aug. 4 (Sunday): Worship Service, celebration of communion (8:45 am)  
Aug. 6 (Tuesday): Helping Bertram serve lunch at Mission of Hope  
Aug. 8 (Thursday): Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)  
Aug. 12 (Monday): Spic 'n Span Church Cleaning Crew, everyone welcome (9:00 am)  
Aug. 21 (Wednesday): Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)

**Neighborhood Luck of the Pot**  
**Organizational Ground Rules**

- Everyone is welcome, sinners and saints
- Place settings provided
- Always good food
- Always good conversation
- No dishes to wash

Next gathering: Thursday, August 8 (11:30 am)

**Buffalo United Methodist Church**  
**1000 30<sup>th</sup> St**  
**Cedar Rapids, IA 52402**

**Ice Cream Supper**  
**at Buffalo**

*Saturday, August 3, 2019*  
*4:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

*Menu: Sloppy Joe's, Potato Salad,*  
*Baked Beans, Beverage,*  
*Pie or Cake and Ice Cream*  
*Adults - \$8.00*

*Children 12 and under \$2.50*  
*Children 5 and under are free*

Invite your neighbors, friends, children, grandchildren, cousins, kissing cousins, square dance partners, poker buddies, TV repair technicians, hair stylists, golf caddies, old business associates, mail carriers, and strangers on the street to join us for the premier social/eating event of the year.

