

# Buffalo United Methodist Church

August 2023

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



## Pastor Carol's Desk

A friend brought over some tomatoes for me yesterday. This time of the year they can be so awesome. When we get fresh produce out of the garden, they often taste so good. I trust you all are also enjoying some fresh produce this summer. I feel so thankful for the wonderful produce I receive.

In the month of July we had a sermon on weeds and wheat. This summer in Iowa the grass is not growing very much, but the weeds are taking over. It seems the weeds don't need water to grow, they just grow. I wonder how that is?

As you may have heard, I have a new foster dog. She is only eight months old, and I am not used to puppies. This is a challenge for me. My dogs are getting old so this new adventure with a puppy is interesting. We are working on commands like "stay down" and "no jumping." Well, so far she has not fully understood the word "no." I began wondering, "God, why did you bring this puppy into my home?"

I found the answer to that one: the puppy makes me get up and move faster. Puppies have so much energy, but we are making it work. God does not give us more than we can handle, but there are times I say, "Really God, really!"

This little puppy was thrown out of the only house she has ever known. All she wants is to be loved and cared for and played with. This happens to many dogs, but we do our best to take care of them and help them on the next journey of their lives.

God puts us in places we never thought we would be, but there is a reason for everything. We just need to trust God and put our faith in God. God is Good.

Blessings,  
**Pastor Carol**

## Church Cleaning

Come help clean the church on Wednesday, August 9, beginning at 9 am. We are usually done by 10:30 a.m. At Buffalo we all appreciate the concept that "many hands make light work"—an adage with a long heritage. The idiom first made its English appearance in John Heywood's book *Proverbs*, published in 1546. This saying has roots in many other languages and cultures. For example in Swahili, it's "Mikono mingi kazi haba."

## Neighborhood Potluck

### Thursday, August 10

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 10 for a neighborly potluck, our first group meal since the Fellowship Hall floor was scrubbed and waxed. Feel free to bring along a friend, neighbor, relative, or anyone who might benefit from a good meal and good conversation. Beverages and tableware are provided.

## Hy-Vee Receipts

Buffalo UMC has no intent to encourage individuals to shop at Hy-Vee. But if you or friends or family members or neighbors do choose to purchase items from Hy-Vee, we encourage you to save the receipts and deposit them in a large glass jar in the back of the sanctuary. The receipts can be redeemed for the purchase of supplies and materials for Garfield Elementary School. Over the years we have helped supply thousands of dollars of educational resources for Garfield. Please help us continue with this invaluable assistance.

## Mission of Hope

In the back of the sanctuary is a large box labeled "Mission of Hope." Donations of cereal, canned goods, personal hygiene products, and toilet paper are greatly appreciated.

## Remembering Who We Are: Made in the Image of God Passages from Bishop's Episcopal Address to 2023 Iowa Annual Conference

*In her inaugural episcopal address at the 2023 Iowa UMC's Annual Conference, Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai encouraged the body to respond to the challenges facing the church not with anger or retribution but with healing, reconciliation, and love. She emphasized her commitment to #BeUMC, going deep in spiritual formation and Christian discipleship, focusing outward, and making hope real. Bigham-Tsai told the body that she wants to put Iowa on the map and demonstrate how God's hope can be made real through faithful leaders, fruitful communities, and fire-filled people. Here is a sample from her remarks:*

"I have seen the ministry that you do—Iowa—the people that you are. I have seen you. I have seen the worry lines in the faces of our clergy and the tired and haggard looks of some of our laity. I have seen and heard the discouragement, the anger, the grief, and the trauma of an ongoing fight that is ending in a painful divorce. But I have also seen the hope and the joy on the faces of young clergywomen chatting away at dinner at the Primrose Cafe in Corning. I have been a part of animated, theological conversations around a fire pit in the backyard of young pastors as we discussed the ministry of Nourished, a spiritual community, and a gluten-free bakery. And, I have seen laity gather (on Laity Day) in their commitment to racial justice, inspired by stories of racial healing. I have seen you at the Iowa Annual Conference, and this is what I know...I know that you are all made in the image of God and that you are good."

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, "Disciples of Jesus . . . welcome all people to the table of God's mercy and combat the scourge of racism and homophobia and transphobia and misogyny because we recognize that all persons are made in the image of God, no matter their race, or gender, or gender identity or sexuality,"

"And when it comes to our call to be a grace-filled church, amidst the divisions and disagreements of our time, this is what we must know. We must know that it doesn't matter who is right or thinks they are right. It only matters if we are loving. It doesn't matter who is right or thinks they are right. It only matters if we are welcoming, and it does not matter who is right or thinks

they are right. It only matters that we see the image of God, the likeness of Christ and all people and be Christ to all. Friends to do any of this. We're going to have to go deep spiritually."

"We must go a mile deep in the intentional formation of disciples of Jesus Christ, who can meet the test of these times, disciples who can deal with the complexities of these times, disciples who can meet the divisions of these times."

"God made us together as a beloved community, as a holy connection, as the body of Christ called United Methodist. And after, God made us and formed us into the connectional body that is the Iowa annual conference. Do you know what God said? Es bueno—It is good—C'est bon—It is good—Johda—It is good—Nimzur'i—It is good—Lahat Muh Ayos—it is all very good! Iowa Annual Conference, remember who you are. Amen."

### Jobs Well Done

- Carla hauling hundreds of gallons of water to the thirsty trees and shrubs.
- Kim and Jo watering the outdoor flower planters.
- Barb weeding the playground.
- Gary fixing several church doors so they lock properly & installing the air conditioners in the Fellowship Hall.
- Becky coordinating the Fellowship Hall floor cleaning and waxing.
- The team of volunteers lifting, rolling, and dragging furniture out of the Fellowship Hall and moving everything back after the floor's cleaning/waxing.
- Folks bringing fresh flowers for the altar.
- Pastor Carol delivering her inspiring Sunday sermons, leading the Bible study sessions, and personally contacting members and friends unable to attend Sunday morning worship services.

### Ecumenical Center

The Ecumenical Center is in need of donations:

- money
- personal care items
- clothing
- money
- dish soap and dry laundry soap
- toilet tissue
- money

Judy Hackney (319-393-0188) will be glad to transport the donations.

Thanks for the gifts already received.

# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Let your words be the genuine picture of your heart." ~John Wesley		1	2	3	4	5 Tomorrow is the 78 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima
6 Worship Service & Communion (9:00 am)	7	8	9 Church Cleaning (9:00 am)	10 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	11	12 .
13 Worship Service (9:00 am)	14	15	16 Administrative Board (10:00 am)	17	18	19 Hymn Sing & Picnic (6:00 pm)
20 No Worship Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship Service (9:00 am)	28	29	30	31	"Now I Am Become Death, the Destroyer of Worlds." ~J. Robert Oppenheimer, quoting Hindu scripture after viewing the first explosion of an atomic bomb in July, 1945.	

**August (and early September) Birthdays:** 9 - Jan Kittrell 12 – Cameron Kelley 17 – Jamie Fredericksen  
September 3 - Linda Otto

**August Anniversaries:** 24 – Tom & Pat Ferguson

## Special Offering for August Ingathering Kits

The "noisy offering" on August 13 will be used to buy supplies for the School Kits and the Personal Dignity Kits (20 of each). Donations of money are appreciated for supplies and shipping and handling. Last year the Administrative Board voted to use the August "noisy offering" collection to buy items for the yearly Midwest Mission Ingathering kits due November 2023.

Ingathering is a United Methodist Women in Faith project. Non-profit organizations supported by the Ingathering include Heifer International, Church World Service, Mobility Worldwide, Midwest Mission, and Self-Help International, which partners with communities in Ghana and Nicaragua to offer

agricultural extension training, nutritional education, micro-credit loans for rural women, development of small businesses, access to clean drinking water, and 4-H style youth ag programs.

In the Meeting Room is a list of needed items for the Ingathering kits. We will maintain a tally of donated supplies. The cost of handling and shipping 40 kits is \$80. The cost to include a razor and toothpaste in each Personal Dignity Kit is \$40. If you would like to donate to Heifer International, please write Heifer International on your check or attach a note with your cash.

Thanks to Bertram UMC for their donation of money to help with shipping expenses. If you have questions about Buffalo's involvement in this year's Ingathering, please contact Judy Hackney (319-393-0188) or Chris Gochenouer (319-363-5000).

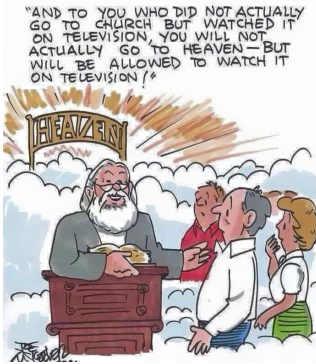
## Buffalo Calendar

- August 6: Worship Service with Communion  
August 9: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)  
August 10: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)  
August 13: Worship Service "Noisy Offering"  
August 16: Administrative Board Meeting  
August 19: Buffalo Family Hymn Sing  
and Picnic (*Note new starting time: 6:00 p.m.*)  
August 20: No Sunday Morning Worship Service  
October 28: Fall Bazaar  
November 5: Annual Charge Conference at Lovely Lane

### Scripture readings for Sunday Morning

#### Worship Services in August

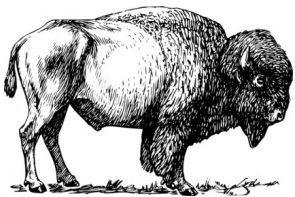
- August 6: Matthew 14: 13-21 & Psalm 17: 1-7  
August 13: Matthew 14: 22-23 & Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22  
August 27: Matthew 16: 13-20 & Psalm 124



## Buffalo United Methodist Church

1000 30<sup>th</sup> St NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



**Since 1876**

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

## Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing and "Buffalo Frank" Picnic

Saturday, August 19, 2023  
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Hymn Sing at the Hahn Memorial.  
Chairs & benches provided,  
but feel free to bring your own  
folding chairs, blankets, fans, etc.

After singing our favorite hymns,  
we'll enjoy a picnic of Buffalo Franks (hot dogs),  
Chips, Beverage, Ice Cream, and Dessert.

There is no charge for this meal.  
Donations accepted.

Please invite friends, neighbors, & family  
members to join us for this summer-time  
celebration.