

Buffalo United Methodist Church

December 2019

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Life Goes On

by Bishop Laurie Haller

Life goes on. My father said it often in his later years. I suspect it came from his own experience of change and loss over time. Whenever I visited, Dad and I would reminisce about the many wonderful times we had together, and, invariably he would say, “Life goes on.” In other words, we all experience sorrow and joy, good times and tough times, laughter and tears.

Last week was one of those times. At the cemetery, we prayed, “Almighty God, into your hands we commend your child, Gerald Francis Hartzel Sr., in sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. These remains we commit to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.” Then each family member took a turn shoveling dirt into my father’s grave.

My ancestors on both parents’ sides arrived in southeastern Pennsylvania from Europe in the early 1700’s. William Penn, who founded the state of Pennsylvania, was an early advocate for religious freedom, offering protection for minorities such as Quakers, Mennonites, and Brethren.

What I am most grateful for about my father is that he always supported me, even though he didn’t always understand my career path. He helped me through college, then two years of graduate school for sacred music, then several more years in seminary. Women were not allowed to be pastors in the General Conference Mennonite Church when I was growing up, but my father always encouraged my call to ministry. Eventually, I was ordained in my home

church, but my call ultimately led me to The United Methodist Church. “Life goes on,” Dad would say.

As I led the memorial service, it was all I could do to hold back the tears. They were tears of joy, however, because of the legacy that my father left for his family, friends, and church. . . . During the sermon, I shared a quote from the German theologian and mystic Meister Eckhart, who expressed it this way seven hundred years ago. “God lies in wait for us with nothing so much as love, and love is like a fisherman’s hook. Whatever the fisherman does, and whoever is caught by this hook, love does it, and love alone.”

Life goes on. Yet, for just a moment, can you be still and know that God is God? Have you been caught yet by the hook of God’s love? How will you fish for people by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, embodying the gospel, and then patiently waiting for God to work? How does God want to use you as a channel of grace, hope, and love? How will you make a positive difference in the lives of those around you in the days and months ahead?

[This is an abridged version of the Bishop’s September posting to her blog *Leading from the Heart*.]

Neighborhood Potluck

Come join us for the potluck on Thursday, December 12, beginning at 11:30 am. There is always plenty of food and good conversation. We will be playing bingo after the meal, so please bring a gift or two, cost \$1 to \$3.

United Methodist Women

No meeting in December but we will be congregating at 9:30 a.m. on January 16, with Marlene Himes providing the lesson and the treats.

Support of HACAP at Garfield

The Garfield Backpack Program serves 140 students every week at Garfield. If you would like to help prepare the backpacks at HACAP (an hour-long commitment every other Tuesday at 12:30 pm), please contact Barb Crawford (826-2468). To help HACAP with their expenses, we will pop corn once at month at Garfield. On Friday, November 22, we popped 300 bags of popcorn, producing a \$150 profit for HACAP.

A Bouquet of Thank You's

- The Hahn Memorial steel sculpture is now installed, facing 30th Street NE. Thanks to Hep Hentrich and Larry Nessel (and his construction crew) for their expertise and skill in insuring the safe and secure installation of this large work of art.
- Due to the efforts of Tom and Pat Ferguson, we now have a new container for composting leaves and grass. And here's a "shout out" to our dedicated leaf rakers/collectors—Gary Hackney and the Ferguson team.
- Kudos to Barb Crawford and Marlene Himes for washing the windows in the Fellowship Hall before the new blinds were installed.
- Buffalo's Bakers came through again. We collected \$96.50 for the baked goods donated for the Election Day Bake Sale on November 5.
- Special thanks to Marlene Himes and Jan Kittrell for attending the In Gathering in Cedar Falls on November 2. Buffalo UMW contributed 56 hygiene kits, 38 school kits, and cash toward mailing.
- Everyone in the congregation deserves a pat on the back for donating to the Linn Community Food Bank over 131 pounds of food for their Thanksgiving dinners: 46 cans of sweet potatoes, 85 boxes of stuffing, 2 cans of cranberries, 1 can of pumpkin, and 2 bags of marshmallows.

Buffalo UMC Mission Statement

A welcoming fellowship reaching out and caring for the community.

Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark

For four Sundays in January and February, our morning worship services will be followed by a one-hour Bible study class focusing on the Gospel of Mark. These informal conversations on the oldest and shortest of the four gospels will be led by Bob Marrs.

Our primary focus will be on this gospel's unique structure and theology. Our goal will be to gain a clearer understanding of Mark's singular perspective on the life of Jesus of Nazareth and potential relevance of the gospel's message to our own lives. The discussion sessions will require no preparation; however, there is no penalty for reading some or all of the gospel prior to any of the meetings.

Jan. 12: Gospel of Mark, chapter 1

Jan. 26: Mark, chapters 2-5

Feb. 9: Mark, chapters 6-10

Feb. 23: Mark, chapters 11-16

Hot drinks, fruit juice, and a few modest refreshments will be provided to help energize our reading and reflections on this remarkable text.

Administrative Board Meeting Report November 20 Meeting

- The blinds purchased with the Stanford Memorial Funds have been installed in the Fellowship Hall; universal agreement they look wonderful.
- The board discussed possible names for the newly installed outdoor sculpture. Since the money for funding this purchase came from Rev. Samuel Hahn, it was decided the new outdoor sculpture and worship area be designated the "Hahn Outdoor Memorial." Judy Hackney will order a plaque to honor Rev. Hahn.
- Barb Crawford reported on her meeting with the caterer for the Christmas dinner on January 5. The menu has been selected, and church members will provide the desserts. Following the meal, we will have a carol sing—a fitting conclusion to the Christmas season.

End-of-the-Year Reminders

- *Don't forget to save those Hy-Vee Receipts.*
- *Book donations are always welcome for supporting the Garfield Library and Buffalo's Little Library.*
- *Use printed post cards for inviting friends and neighbors to the Taizé Service on December 5.*

December 2019

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 8:45 am: Worship Service 1 st Sunday of Advent	2	3 Mission of Hope: Assist Bertram UMC with noon meal	4	5 Taizé Music and Prayer Service (7:00 pm)	6	7
8 8:45 am: Worship Service 2 nd Sunday of Advent	9	10	11	12 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	13	14
15 8:45 am: Worship Service 3 rd Sunday of Advent	16	17	18 Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)	19	20	21
22 8:45 am: Worship Service 4 th Sunday of Advent	23	24 Christmas Eve Service (4:30 pm)	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29 8:45 am: Worship Service	30	31	30	31 New Year's Eve	December Birthdays 9 – Eileen Kaplan 11 – Gary Hackney 18 – Faye Reynolds	

Buffalo Fall 2019 Charge Conference

Sunday, November 3, 2019

Led by Pastor Darwin Moore of Bertram UMC, eight members of the Buffalo UMC had a productive hour addressing the following topics:

- It was noted that the congregation completed our 2019 goal of rewriting the church's Mission Statement.
- Board members identified some of the congregation's more notable successes for the year:
 - (1) Supporting the Linn Community Food Bank (contributing almost \$1100) and Mission of Hope.
 - (2) Assembling back-packs for Garfield School.
 - (3) Stocking and maintaining our Little Free Library.
 - (4) Continuing support for an outstanding UMW.
- Pastor Kathryn summarized what she perceived as the congregation's primary strengths: fellowship, support, volunteering, and giving.

- Our goals for 2020 include:

- (1) Continuing to reach out to the neighborhood: sending post cards for events and delivering care packages to new home owners/renters in the area
 - (2) Developing outdoor worship and community events utilizing our new outdoor sculpture piece.
 - (3) Sharing our space with the First Nations congregation.
 - (4) Providing a welcoming place for voting (including free-will offering bake sale).
- The Board of Trustees report focused on the need for a safe sanctuary policy, including the use of social media; it was noted the web site now averages over 50 visits per week.
 - The Charge Conference approved a continuation of the Pastor's salary, travel expenses (including attendance at Annual Conference), continuing education, and pension.

Buffalo Leadership Positions for 2020

Admin. Council Chairperson Barb Crawford
Recording Secretary Margie Marrs
Lay Leader Mary Fredericksen
Worship, Music & Education Marlene Himes, Judy Hackney, Margie Marrs
Outreach, Mission, Evangelism Sheryl Arnett, Faye Reynolds, Chris Gochenouer
Church Treasurer Judy Hackney
Financial Secretary Chris Gochenouer
Council Members-at-large Sheryl Arnett, Gloria Clinton, Bob Marrs
2020 Conference Lay Delegate Bob Marrs; Judy Hackney as alternate

Buffalo Calendar

Upcoming Events

December 5: Taizé Service (7:00 pm)
December 24: Christmas Eve Service (4:30 pm)
January 5: Christmas Dinner (12:00 noon)
January 12: First Bible Study Session on Mark (10:00 am)
March 26: Taizé Service (7:00 pm)
March 28: Pancake Breakfast
June 11 & 12: Annual Rummage Sale
July 25: Ice Cream Social

Taizé-Style Music & Prayer

Candle Light Service

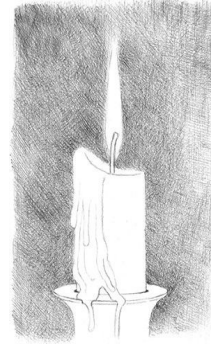
Thursday, December 5

Service begins at 7:00 pm

This ecumenical, non-denominational service features music from the Taizé community in France.

Please join us for an evening of scripture, prayer, music, and celebration.

Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of the service



For more information on Buffalo's Ministries, visit the church's website:
<http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>

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