

Buffalo United Methodist Church

December 2022

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Pastor Carol's Desk

Merry Christmas

While we are all preparing for Christmas, perhaps baking cookies or wrapping presents, I know that one thing on all our minds is the birth of Jesus. The one who has freed us from our sins. The one who gives us hope, the one who guides us, the one who loves us unconditionally and shows us how to love. The Holy Spirit is around us all the time, helping us with decisions we must make, keeping us on the path that Jesus has laid out before us.

For many of us, Christmas is a time of family gathering around a table and talking and sharing memories of the past and looking forward to the future. Christmas is much more than just presents. God has given us the greatest gift of all, Jesus. Christmas should be a season of love, the love for one another, the sharing with each other. It is a time to rejoice and sing hymns. It is a time to reach out to someone we have not seen in a while, to let them know we care and are thinking of them.

It is a time to be thankful that we are walking with the Lord, knowing we are accepted for who we are. May your December be filled with love, and family, and celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

Blessings,
Pastor Carol

Neighborhood Potluck

Join us on December 8 at 11:30 a.m. for a hot meal. Bring a dish to share. Beverages and table settings will be provided.

Shoes and Shoes and More Shoes

Laurie Haller, the Iowa Conference Bishop, is retiring. She is an avid runner, and in honor of her retirement, the Conference is collecting money to purchase children's shoes for needy children. Our Noisy Offering for Sunday, December 11 will be an opportunity for the Buffalo congregation to recognize and celebrate her superb leadership as our Bishop. Please consider giving generously.



January Christmas Dinner

Sunday, January 15 has been selected as the date for Buffalo's annual Christmas dinner. This event is sponsored by the United Women in Faith, but everyone is invited to gather for this hour of eating and conversing. Barb Crawford and Judy Hackney are making arrangements with a caterer. More information will be available soon.

Buffalo 2023 Calendar

At the back of the worship center is a folder where members and friends of Buffalo can sign up for a 2023 church wall calendar. The calendar will feature color photos of Buffalo and a schedule of important events throughout the year. The deadline for requesting your free calendar is December 8. Feel free to purchase additional copies (\$10 per calendar). Calendars will be distributed on Sunday morning, December 18. They should make great Christmas presents.

*Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;
Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord.*

~Psalm 96 (lectionary scripture reading for Christmas Day)

Issues Addressed at November Administrative Board Meeting

- The Board members discussed possible designs for the new Memorial Plaque, honoring past members and special friends of the congregation. The Board decided to continue investigating options and will reconsider the topic at the January meeting.
- With regard to landscaping and care of the church herb and flower gardens, Board members hope that volunteers can be found who will assume responsibility for specific areas (such as the Labyrinth, rain gardens, etc). In January there will be opportunities for volunteers to sign up for particular tasks.
- The Board discussed the possibility of donating money in support of Methodist camps. No decision was made and the issue will be revisited at a later meeting.

- The Board voted to continue purchasing advertising in the Gazette the first Saturday of each month until Easter. There was also a discussion of advertising our Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning services in the newspaper's annual holiday insert.
- Prior to the November General Election, a question was raised if Buffalo should have a policy concerning individuals bearing firearms while on church property. The Board chose to postpone a decision on this matter until after receiving further guidance from the Iowa Conference. If the Board determined that firearms would not be permitted, there would then be an issue of how the prohibition would be enforced.
- The next full Board meeting will be in January; however, there will be a short session on Sunday, December 11, following the morning worship service.

ADVENT SEASON WORD SEARCH

P B B E C A E P F S N A B S P
 Y E M M A N U E L K U D N P G
 N U N S M G N L P F Y S M Q G
 R O T O E E I R Y O J O E Q U
 F O I I I L R D S U H V M J K
 J D T T G T D U N R W O A O E
 P B T H A H A N O O O A R Z W
 L U R H G R P P A F H G Y N R
 T F R O O I A E I C p E A C E
 Q I D P I Y L P S C J X G O A
 Q K M E L V Q P E O I S J T T
 W O M N T E A X N R J T H O H
 I U H X S X S S H R P I N K O
 F S F V J V Y E G N I T I A W
 L O V E C I O J E R O M O N S

WORD LIST

ANGEL
 FOUR
 JOY
 PEACE
 REJOICE

ANTICIPATION
 HOPE
 LIGHT
 PINK
 SAVIOR

CANDLES
 JESUS
 LOVE
 PREPARATION
 WAITING

EMMANUEL
 JOSEPH
 MARY
 PURPLE
 WREATH

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences." ~ John Wesley</p>				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship Service <i>Communion Service</i>	5	6	7 Clean Church (9:00 am)	8 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30) Taize Service (7:00 p.m.)	9	10
11 9:00 am Worship Service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Worship Service	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service (4:00 p.m.)
25 Christmas 9:00 am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

December Birthdays: 7 – Pastor Carol Mart 9 – Eileen Kaplan
11- Gary Hackney 18- Faye Reynolds 24 – Jim McKibbin

Wedding Anniversaries: No Wedding Bells

Did You Know?

- There are 25 United Women in Faith units in Iowa, with a total of 760 members. St. Paul's in Cedar Rapids is the largest unit and has 176 members.
- United Methodist Student Day 'Noisy Offering' collection in November totaled \$101.67.
- Over 750 people voted at Buffalo UMC on at the General Election on Tuesday, November 8. Our bake sale earned \$123 in donations.



United Women in Faith

There is no meeting in December. The five Mission Ingathering sites in Iowa collected over 11,500 school kits and 6,450 personal dignity kits for distribution as needed. Thanks to everyone who donated items or money for the kits. And a special thanks to Judy Hackney for preparing the kits that were delivered the first week in November.

Midweek Meditation

Don't forget: each Wednesday a new Midweek Meditation is posted to the Buffalo website; the short reflections are accompanied by a scripture reading, a music video, and a Buffalo UMC photo.

Buffalo Calendar

Upcoming Special Events

- 7 December:** Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)
8 December: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)
Taize Prayer Service (7:00 p.m.)
11 December: Noisy Offering (collection in honor of
Bishop Laurie Haller's retirement)
24 December: Christmas Eve Candlelight Family
Service (4:00 p.m.)
25 December: Christmas
15 January: Annual Christmas Dinner (following
Sunday Morning Worship Service)

Do You Need a New Plant?

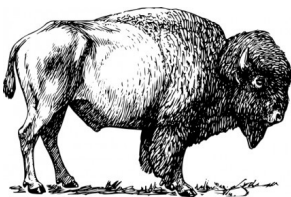
Thanks to Kim Griffith, who has a green thumb, for donating several newly potted spider plants for the Bazaar in October. We still have several thriving plants needing a new home. A modest donation of \$1.50 is the suggested price for each plant. Please contact Barb Crawford (319-826-2468) or Chris Gochenouer (319-363-5000) if you would like a plant.

Taizé Prayer Service

A Taizé-tradition prayer service has been scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8. This is a candlelight service with silent meditation, private prayer, the reading of scripture, and the singing of several beautiful hymns, including "Let All Who Are Thirsty, Come" and "Stay with Me." This ecumenical event is an ideal opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and family members to join with us for a beautiful Advent experience. The service will last approximately one hour and be followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.



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1000 30th St NE
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Since 1876

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