



# Buffalo United Methodist Church

February 2019

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



## Exercising the Discipline of the Whole Church

Bishop Laurie Haller

I learned two things about The United Methodist Church before I ever dreamed of one day becoming a United Methodist pastor. First, when a large United Methodist church in Connecticut hired me to be their part-time Director of Music while I was pursuing a graduate degree in sacred music, I said to myself after a few months, "I love the people of the United Methodist Church! They are faithful and fruitful, and they were willing to take a risk and hire a kid like me to shepherd their music program." I stayed for five years.

Second, two District Superintendents traveled to Yale Divinity School to visit Gary during his last year as he was preparing for his first appointment in Michigan. Then they turned to me and said, "Laurie, we know that you are pursuing ordination in the General Conference Mennonite Church, but if you ever want an appointment in the West Michigan Conference, just let us know! We'd love for you to be one of our pastors."

I never forgot their gracious invitation and eventually took them up on the offer, receiving my first appointment in Michigan as a pastor in good standing of another denomination. Six years later, I transferred my ordination credentials from the General Conference Mennonite Church to The United Methodist Church.

It was because of the graciousness of the Cabinet and Board of Ordained Ministry of The West Michigan Conference that I am a United Methodist today. The United Methodist Church is not an insular denomination, closed in on itself and unwilling to embrace other religious groups. In fact, United Methodists are on the forefront of ecumenical and

interfaith relationships, as we seek to work together to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

- Did you know that there are 24 pastors from other denominations who are serving under appointment in United Methodist local churches in Iowa? Additionally, there are four pastors serving from other Methodist denominations.
- Did you know that there are 23 yoked/union/federated/multi-point charges in Iowa, which means that one or more of the churches is United Methodist and the other is of a different denomination? All but one are located in small towns or rural settings.
- Did you know that the United Methodist Church has an Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, which is located in the Council of Bishops Office in Washington D.C.?

Episcopal leaders in The United Methodist Church are mandated to lead the denomination in ecumenical and interreligious ministry. When new bishops are consecrated, these words are shared during the examination of episcopal candidates, "You are called to guard the faith, to seek the unity, and to exercise the discipline of the whole church; and to supervise and support the church's life, work and mission throughout the world. These are high and holy callings."

[The complete text of this commentary, posted on November 12, 2018, is available on Bishop Haller's blog *Leading from the Heart*.]

## Neighborhood Potluck

### Perfect Way to Celebrate Valentine's Day

As soon as you finish reading this paragraph, immediately make sure your calendar includes the next Neighborhood Potluck, beginning 11:30 am on Thursday, February 14. Everyone—and we do mean everyone—is invited. There is always plenty of delicious food and good conversations. Place settings and beverages are provided.

### Two Garfield School Projects

(1) Valentine treat bags will be distributed to Garfield backpack students the week of February 11. By Sunday, February 10, please bring to the church 60 wrapped candy, pencils, or comparable items for the treat bags.

(2) A big “THANK YOU” to everyone who provided monetary donations so new books could be purchased for the Garfield School Library. Over \$400 has been collected. Since new hardback books cost \$25 or more, further donations will be appreciated at any time of the year.

### More Expressions of Thanks

♥ To the ladies who decorated the church to celebrate the birth of Jesus—and then put away all the decorations in preparation for next year's Advent season.

♥ To Sheryl Arnett and her great job coordinating the Christmas Dinner on Sunday, January 20. The food, from Sally's Restaurant in Springville, was excellent—as were the scrumptious desserts provided by diners. Gloria Clinton did a stellar job calling Bingo numbers, and a special thanks to everyone who brought gifts.

♥ To the Buffalo Gals who not only “dance by the light of the moon” but early the next morning pop corn at Garfield each month during the school year. So far this year \$330 has been sent to HACAP for the backpack program.

♥ To Bob Fish and his crew, who do a fantastic job clearing the church parking lot and sidewalks of snow and ice.

## January Administrative Board

- Judy reported the financial records are ready for audit. Following the audit, Pastor Kathryn and Judy will meet to complete the online submission.
- In her Trustees report, Marlene thanked Gary Hackney for purchasing and installing a new stool in the women's bathroom by the sanctuary. She also informed the Board that Tom Ferguson had repaired the shed door. The Board approved Marlene's recommendation that we hire PK Midwest to service the church's riding lawn mower.
- The board discussed plans for creating an outdoor worship area with a fire pit. A Marion sculptor is working on a design and will produce a 3-D model to help the congregation envision her proposal. No action will be taken until the congregation has received the money from the Sam Hahn estate.
- The Board canceled the Hymn Sing service scheduled for a Wednesday evening in February.
- The Board voted to adopt a new Mission Statement that emphasizes six key words: welcoming, fellowship, reaching out, care, community. [After the Board meeting there has been further discussion about the statement's precise phrasing. A decision on the final wording will be made soon.]

### Song of the Builders

~by Mary Oliver, American Poet (1935-2019)

On a summer morning  
I sat down  
on a hillside  
to think about God -  
    a worthy pastime.  
Near me, I saw  
    a single cricket;  
    it was moving the grains of the hillside  
this way and that way.  
How great was its energy,  
how humble its effort.  
Let us hope  
    it will always be like this,  
    each of us going on  
    in our inexplicable ways  
    building the universe.

Pastor Kathryn's Office Hours  
Every Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Phone: 319-389-3187

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2019</h1>					1	2 Candlemas
3 8:45 am: Worship Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 8:45 am: Worship Service	11 9:00 am: Clean Church	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 11:30 am: Neighborhood Potluck	15 8:00 am: Popping corn at Garfield	16
17 8:45 am: Worship Service <i>Valentine Caroling after church</i>	18 Presidents' Day	19	20 4:00 pm: Admin. Board Meeting	21 9:30 am: UMW	22	23
24 8:45 am: Worship Service	25	26	27	28	<i>Candlemas: a Christian Holy Day that commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple</i>	

## February Birthdays

- 3 – Mary Lou Stepanek
- 4 - Luke Kelley
- 6 – Margie Marrs
- 10 – Marlene Himes
- 11 – Christine Gochenouer
- 11 – Marilyn (Marlee) Carpenter
- 17 – Carla Lindball
- 19 - Becky Durand
- 29 – Nancy Carter

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Thanks to SoloTotoCoyote 02-07-2014  
MOSES AND NOAH HAVING AN ARGUMENT

## Back Pew Humor: Twelve Church Signs Buffalo Will Never Use?

- Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!
- Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.
- Seven days without prayer makes one weak.
- Under same management for over 2000 years.
- Sign broken. Message inside this Sunday.
- Fight truth decay--study the Bible daily.
- Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.
- Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- Have trouble sleeping? We have sermons--come hear one!
- Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!
- God so loved the world that He did not send a committee.
- Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.

## **Buffalo UMC February Events**

- Feb.11: Clean Church (9:00 am)  
Feb. 14: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)  
Feb. 15: Popping corn at Garfield (8 am); popcorn profits donated to HACAP for the backpack program  
Feb. 20: Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)  
Feb. 21: UMW Meeting (9:30 am)

## **Two Opportunities to Support our Friends at Bertram UMC**

- Feb. 5: Serving lunch, Mission of Hope (11:30 am)  
March 2: Bertram Pancake Breakfast (8 to 11 am)

On March 1 from 9:00 to 11:00 am, Buffalo's UMW is hosting the World Day of Prayer. This year's featured country is Slovenia. Everyone is welcome.

## **Special Offering in February**

The special offering in February is for Disability Awareness. The offering celebrates the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## **Reverse Advent Offering**

We collected over \$396 for disaster relief. Thanks to Nancy Carter and Pastor Kathryn for initiating the collection this year.

## **Taizé Prayer Service**

The Lenten Taizé-style service of prayer and reconciliation is scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 28, beginning at 7:00 pm. Please consider bringing a friend or neighbor with you to this candlelight service of prayer, music, and scripture.

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