

Buffalo United Methodist Church

February 2023

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Pastor Carol's Desk

As many of you know, I am a foster mom for Fur Fun Rescue. I now have two little dogs that were rescued from a house fire. Within this house were over 60 dogs. My rescue group volunteered to work with 36 of these dogs. Our mission is help these dogs in need. This made me think about people. How many people are out there who need to be rescued by God?

While it's impossible for me to put a precise number of those in need, I am sure many folks are walking around unsure of who God is. When we help spread the word of how God helps us in our daily lives, we can hope that what we share will make them ask the question, how can God help me?

As humans there will be times when we want to help, but we don't know what to say. I have learned that often all someone needs is just a smile and hug or a phone call or a simple card or an invitation for lunch. These simple acts of kindness can mean the world to someone who is struggling.

The world of these little dogs has been turned upside down. They were taken from the only home they had ever known and placed in a stranger's home. What we do is reassure them that we will not hurt them, we will love them, we will feed them, we will keep them warm. It amazing how fast they learn that love can come in such simple acts of kindness.

Blessings,
Pastor Carol



Special Offering for February

On Sunday, February 12, we will collect a "noisy offering" for Disability Awareness Sunday. This event celebrates "the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community."

United Women in Faith

The meeting scheduled for January 19 was canceled because of the snowy weather. So our guest speaker, Barb Oakland, will present "Who Can We Be Together?" a Mission U Study at our meeting on February 16, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Barb has been active in UMW/UWF for many years and has served the district board in many capacities. There will also be a short business meeting.

Church Cleaning Date

We look forward to working together to clean the church. Please come and help dust and vacuum at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8. Many volunteers helped in January. Thank you.

Neighborhood Potluck

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on February 9 for a hot meal and good conversation. Bring a dish to share. Beverages and table settings will be provided.

January Christmas Dinner

We enjoyed the annual dinner on Sunday, January 15. The food was provided by LJ's Catering in Marion and the outstanding desserts were provided by members of the congregation. Thanks to Gary and Judy Hackney for emceeing a lively game of Bingo. A special thanks to those who provided the wonderful prizes.

Marlene Himes (1936-2023)



Marlene Joan (Mitchell) Himes ended her mission work on earth on Jan. 9, 2023. Marlene was born on Feb. 10, 1936, to Victor and Eldred Mitchell in Richland Center, Wis. She graduated from Richland Center High School in 1953. After graduating she worked at the Edwards Clinic in Richland Center. On April 23, 1955, she married her high school sweetheart, Fred Himes, and they moved to Cedar Rapids. In 1958, she and Fred made their home in Hiawatha, where they have lived ever since.

In 1965, Marlene started her career at the Hiawatha School Food Service, where she retired as a manager in 1998. She held many office positions in the Cedar Rapids Food Service Association and attended many national conventions.

Marlene was a proud member of Buffalo United Methodist Church, where she played the piano for over 60 years. She held every position possible on the church board and was an active member of the United Methodist Women at local, district, and state levels.

Marlene spent tireless hours helping and caring for family, friends, and even strangers. Those left to cherish Marlene's memory are Fred, her husband of 67 years; her children, Vince (Marsha) Himes of Cedar Rapids and Dawn (Michael) Morgan of Lisbon, Iowa; her sisters, Meredith (Bill) Morgan and Glenda (Don) Dobbs; five grandchildren, Nicci Himes, Jolene (JD) Dunham, Adam (Cari) Morgan, Chase (Kaleigh) Morgan, and Marshall (Liz Foster) Morgan; 16 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; her neighbor-sister, Jean; and her church family. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Gloria Jewett, and a grandson, McKale Morgan.

A visitation was held at the Cedar Memorial Park Chapel Stateroom on Friday, Jan. 13. The funeral service was at the Cedar Memorial Park Chapel of Memories with Pastor Carol Mart officiating. Interment was at the Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery-Garden of Tranquility, followed by a luncheon at Buffalo. Memorial contributions may be made in her name to Hall-Perrine Cancer Center, in honor of Dr. Stroh, Hospice of Mercy, and/or Buffalo UMC.

[This text based on the obituary published in The Gazette on Jan. 11, 2023.]

A Conversation with Marlene

This conversation was recorded in April 2016 as we were preparing for Buffalo's 140th anniversary celebration.

Q: How did you end up attending Buffalo?

I was raised in Richland Center, Wisconsin. My mother's parents belonged to the first Norwegian Methodist Church in Wisconsin. Fred and I moved to Hiawatha in 1958 and started going to Buffalo in early '59. Sam Hahn was the minister at that time. Our son and Fred were baptized in the Church. The congregation was probably 25-30 people. But there were other children and our children started attending Sunday School at Buffalo.

Neva Weiss had been playing the piano and the organ. We decided that I would play the piano and she would play the organ. And that's what we did. We played together for over 40 years. Nobody ever told us what we were going to play. We would just wing it. I took lessons when I was in 7th & 8th grade. I played for the choir in high school, and I learned how to sight read hymns. Unfortunately, I never learned how to read chords. I have to have every note written out.

At Buffalo, we used to have over 100 children attend Vacation Bible School. I can't figure where they managed to put all those kids in that small church. And we used to have a nice choir. We had a gal, Nancy, who was a singer, and she loved to sing solos, and she could tell us what to do. This is a good singing congregation—if they know the song. We have people who love to sing, even if they can't read music.

After Rev. Hahn, Gil Dawes became our pastor. He had been a missionary in Argentina, and he preached Liberation Theology. That made more sense than anything I had ever heard. For ten years we would have Bible Study every week, and he was always there—and I still agree with Liberation Theology. I learned a lot from him. But a lot of people left at that time, they were mad, and it was so sad.

I liked the decision to move to the new church building. Fred said the move was a "win/win" situation. And it has turned out to be true. We had so much mold in the old church, and it was so unhealthy. And all the problems carrying things up and down the stairs to the basement. It was such a struggle.

[This conversation continued on the bottom of page 3.]

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!</i> ~Charles Wesley			1	2 Candlemas	3	4
5 9:00 am Worship Service <i>Communion</i>	6	7	8 Clean Church (9:00 am)	9 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30)	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship Service <i>Disability Awareness</i>	13	14	15	16 United Women of Faith (9:00 a.m.)	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship Service	20 Presidents' Day	21	22 Ash Wednesday	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship Service	27	28	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>When I shall come to the end of my way, When I shall rest at the close of life's day, When "Welcome home" I shall hear Jesus say, O that will be sunrise for me.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">~From the hymn "Sunrise" (Marlene's favorite hymn)</p>			

February Birthdays: 4 - Luke Kelley 6 - Margie Marrs 10 - Marlene Himes (*in memoriam*)
 11 - Chris Gochenouer 11 - Marilyn (Marlee) Carpenter 17 - Carla Lindball
 19 - Becky Durand 22 - Kim Griffith

Conversation with Marlene

(continued from page 2)

This building was empty. The first day we interviewed Jenny, the District Superintendent was there and Chris and George were there. They had gone to Faith before it closed, and they had started going to Buffalo. Chris just said to the District Superintendent, "What are you going to do with Faith?" And he said "Do you want it?" And she said "Yes!" So Jenny had this problem right away. It was tough to convince people, but it was just a building—and now we can't go back.

Q: How did you become head of the Trustees?

That was a mistake! I was on the nominating committee, but no one would take it. I was hoping it would not be a big deal, but it has become a big deal. I

don't like to deal with conflict. We only have one contractor I have to work with on the kitchen remodeling, but he won't finish his jobs. They just have a little left to do. Why don't they come and finish the job? I just don't understand.

We are hoping that people will start using the church for various kinds of activities. For example, our great-granddaughter is going to use it for her post-graduation party. We have a nice, big area. My favorite food to bring? Something in a crockpot. My mom always made Swedish meatballs, and that's what I like to make.

Q: What are six words you would use to describe Buffalo?

Friendship, people you can count on. Camaraderie. One of the attractions of the church: we keep it simple.

Buffalo Calendar

February 2 (Thursday): Candlemas; the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus
February 5 (Sunday): Communion Sunday
February 8 (Wednesday): Cleaning Day (9:00 a.m.)
February 9 (Thursday): Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)
February 12 (Sunday): Noisy Offering (Disability Awareness Sunday)
February 14 (Tuesday): Valentine's Day
February 16 (Thursday): United Women in Faith (9:30 a.m.)
February 20 (Monday): Presidents' Day (Federal Holiday)
February 22: Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent
February 26: First Sunday in Lent
March 3 (Friday): World Day of Prayer
April 2: Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week
April 9: Easter Sunday
April 15 (Saturday): Pancake Breakfast (8 to 11 am)
June 8 & 9: Rummage Sale
August 19 (Saturday): Buffalo Family Function
October 28 (Saturday): Fall Bazaar

Candlemas: February 2

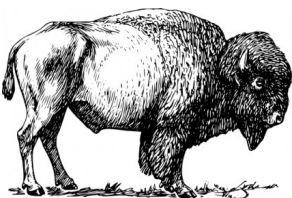
This day is known as the feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast celebrates the presentation of Jesus in the temple as recorded in the Gospel of Luke (2:22-40). Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) are flowers known as Candlemas Bells because they often bloom early in the year (though not this early in Iowa). According to folklore, an angel helped these Candlemas bells bloom and relieve the despair of Eve, who was weeping over the cold and death she had brought into the world. Candles lit during Candlemas symbolize Jesus as the "light of the world," and Candlemas is a day for blessing the candles to be used in the church during the rest of the year.

Given its occurrence at the beginning of February, Candlemas became a day associated with predicting when spring weather would arrive, based on whether the skies were sunny or cloudy.

If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,
Go, Winter, and come not again.

Thus Candlemas became Groundhog's Day, when an animal's shadow forecasts the arrival of spring.

Buffalo United Methodist Church
1000 30th St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Since 1876

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