

Buffalo United Methodist Church



February 2024

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

Pastor Carol's Desk

"Then he said to them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." ~Matthew 4:19

We have been invited to follow our Lord Jesus. We each must make a decision whether or not to follow. I prefer to follow Jesus.

Reading scriptures is a way for us to help ourselves and others make a decision about how to respond to this invitation. Reading the Bible can make a wonderful difference in our lives. There may be one scripture that really hits home for you. If so, print it out and tape it to your refrigerator. As I have said many times we don't walk alone, God is right beside us in our journey.

Last Sunday was the first time I had been in the pulpit since my surgery. I felt it was such a blessing to be with my church family. We all need to remember in our daily prayers people who are healing from surgery, those who may be home bound, others who are traveling. We need to pray for peace. We need to pray for the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Carol

Mission of Hope

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

A Scripture for Ash Wednesday
*Then I turned my face to the Lord God,
seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy
with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.*
~Daniel 6: 3

Special Noisy Offering

On the second Sunday in February, we will collect a Noisy Offering for Disabilities Awareness Sunday. The Iowa Conference supports educational opportunities and grants to local churches in removing barriers to accessibility. "Disability Awareness Sunday calls the Church to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities and calls the Church and society to full inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community."

About one out of four persons lives with a disability. Any of us may acquire a disability at any time, especially as we get older. People with disabilities are less likely than people without disabilities to attend church regularly because of inaccessible buildings, lack of transportation, or being made to feel unwelcome. Disability Awareness Sunday helps change attitudes, priorities, and practices.

*Wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make
their faces shine, and bread
that sustains their hearts. ~Psalm 104: 15*

Neighborhood Potluck

At 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 8, join your friends and neighbors for our monthly potluck luncheon. Feel free to bring along a friend, neighbor, relative, or anyone who might benefit from a good meal and good conversation. As always, beverages (despite the Psalms, probably no wine) and tableware will be provided.

The Bible repeatedly highlights God's provision of food as a demonstration of His love and care for His people. From the manna given to the wandering Israelites, to the feeding of the five thousand in the New Testament, food is a powerful reminder of God's provision. Participating in the Neighborhood Potluck is an opportunity for a celebration of God's blessings.

United Women in Faith

Eight Women in 1869 – Nearly Half a Million Members Today

The 150-year legacy of United Women in Faith began with a few bold women determined to change the world for the better. In 1869, Clementina Butler and Lois Parker, wives of missionaries to India, made a plea to a group of eight women in Boston about the spiritual and physical needs of poor women in India. They could not be treated by male doctors. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Help was desperately needed.

In what would become a lasting legacy of “showing up and getting things done,” the attendees were moved to action. They quickly called another meeting of more

women. They wrote a constitution. And in short order, they organized the Methodist Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS), which has gone through several name changes and is now known as United Women in Faith.

In a continuation of that strong commitment to Christian faith and practices, Buffalo’s United Women in Faith will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 15. There will be a short business meeting followed by a timely program presented by Chris Gochenouer.

Two Major Landscaping Projects

In their January meeting, the Administrative Board approved two expenditures that will have a significant impact on the Buffalo landscape.

#1: The Board authorized employing Ashley Whittlesey, certified arborist and owner of “That Girl” TreeCare, to remove the Tree of Heaven next to the shed and to trim two hackberry trees in the NW corner of our church property. These trees were damaged by the high winds in the August ‘20 derecho. On her visit to Buffalo the first week in January, Ashley inspected all our trees. While recommending some minor pruning that we could do, she felt our other trees were in good shape and did not require any immediate attention.

#2: The Board approved a proposal from Sustainable Landscape Solutions for the creation of an outdoor worship area that would go with the Hahn Memorial sculpture installed in 2019. This is the same company who designed and installed our two rain gardens.

This new project would involve work that would be completed this spring.

- Roadstone Pathway to Worship Space. SLS will excavate out a 4" deep path, 4' wide, that curves from the church door to the outdoor chapel space; install SB5 landscaping fabric and 4" of compacted roadstone to form a durable walkway; and grade out the slope as needed to make it as gentle as possible.
- Worship Space Installation. A space will be excavated around the existing structure that is roughly 22' out from the memorial structure and 32' wide. After excavating 4" deep in three tiers into the existing grade, they will install 4" of compacted roadstone as the surfacing material; place a row of 7" limestone wall block at the back of each tier; and install three limestone outcropping steps down the middle to match the grade of the limestone wall block. Black steel Permaloc edging will be installed on both sides of path and around the chapel area.



To the left is SLS’s computer-generated portrait of how the Hahn Memorial Worship area will be laid out. The walkway from the church building should make the area handicap accessible. The soil that will be excavated for the amphitheater seating area will be used to construct raised beds for planting switch grass, service berries, viburnum, and arbor vitae.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Black History Month <i>"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." ~Desmond Tutu</i>				1	2	2 Candlemas
4 Worship Service & Communion (9:00 am)	5	6	7	8 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	9	10
11 Worship Service (9:00 am) Noisy Offering	12	13 Tomorrow is Valentine's Day	14 Clean Church (9:00 am) Ash Wed. Service (11-12:30)	15 United Women of Faith (9:30 am)	16	17
18 Worship Service (9:00 am)	19 Presidents' Day Federal Holiday	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship (9:00 am)	26	27	28	29	<i>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. ~2 Corinthians 5:20</i>	

February (and early March) Birthdays:

11 – Christine Gochenouer

17 – Carla Lindball

March 3 – Carol Franklin

4 - Luke Kelley

11 – Marilyn (Marlee) Carpenter

19 - Becky Durand

6 – Margie Marrs

22 – Kim Griffith

Anniversaries: None, nary a one for the month of February

Valentine's Day Party & Church Cleaning

Can one imagine a more beautiful way to celebrate St. Valentine's Day than to come to the church by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 14, join the church cleaning crew, and treat yourself to a chocolate heart when finished. The party will probably be over by 10:30 a.m.

Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ~Genesis 2: 7

A Great Meal

Despite the challenges of a cold, snowy January, the people attending the Christmas/Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, January 21, had a wonderful time enjoying the good food and warm fellowship. A special thanks to those folks who brought desserts and the prizes for the rousing Bingo game.

A special blessing to all those members of the congregation who brighten the day for church friends and others with their cards and phone calls.

Buffalo Calendar

February

2: Candlemas

8: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)

14: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)

Ash Wednesday: Administration of ashes &
time for private prayer (11:00 a.m. - 12:30 pm)

15: United Women of Faith (9:30 a.m.)

19: Presidents' Day (Federal Holiday)

March

20: Administrative Board Meeting

Scripture Readings for Worship Services in February

February 4: Mark 1: 29-39 &

1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

February 11: Mark 9: 2-9 &

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

February 18: Mark 1:9-15 &

1 Peter 3: 18-22

February 25: Mark 8: 31-38 &

Psalms 22: 23-31

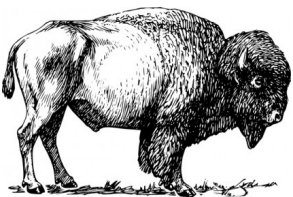
2024 Church Calendars

We still have a few 2024 church calendars, and they are not doing any good sitting on a book case shelf in the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have already taken one, feel free to take a second and put it up in the garage, kitchen, bedroom, den, living room, or any location where it might prove useful. If you do take a second or third calendar, it would be okay to contribute \$10 to the church's bank account to help defray the cost of publication. Thanks.

Midweek Devotions & Bison Blog

Each week (usually on a Tuesday) a new Midweek Devotion and Bison Blog are posted to the church website. The devotions will typically include a scripture reading, a short devotion, a prayer, a Buffalo photo, and a link to a YouTube performance of a hymn. The Bison Blog postings address controversial religious, spiritual, social, or cultural issues. Recent postings have dealt with such subjects as Christian discipleship & aging, the history of denominations in the U.S. (such as the evolution of the United Methodist church), the sacrament of baptism, and "66 Good News Stories You Didn't Hear About in 2023."

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Since 1876

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