

Buffalo United Methodist Church

January 2018



Gratitude

by Bishop Laurie Haller

[This reflection on thanksgiving and gratitude is from Bishop Haller's blog posting for November 27. The complete essay is available at www.lauriehaller.org.]

Over the past few weeks I have been pondering the difference between thanksgiving and gratefulness. On Thanksgiving Day our family has a tradition of going around the table before we eat and sharing those things for which we are thankful. Every year we give thanks for specific blessings such as family, good health, a new job, a car that still runs, supportive friends, a wonderful church family, and opportunities to serve.

Gratefulness, on the other hand, is a state of being that springs from deep in the heart. I am grateful. Gratefulness is a disposition to express gratitude by giving thanks. What is gratefulness? I am standing outside in the driveway at 6:00 a.m., about to go for a run. It's pitch black except for a sky dotted with bright, glittering stars. I can't tear my eyes away from the wonder of the universe. I am taking my evening walk and am mesmerized by the swirl of intricate cloud patterns, a sunset palette of red, orange, and yellow and the jet streams of two planes forming a perfect cross in the sky. . . . A cardinal sits quietly in the backyard and stares at me as I work at the kitchen table. I am grateful.

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart." (St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier) Gratefulness is the bell calling us to a deep awareness of God's presence in our heart. Just as a bell summons us and then sends us back home transformed, so the heart gives life by

taking in and then pumping out blood. In the silence of our hearts, we breathe in the gift of life: gratefulness. Then we breathe out hope for our world: thankfulness. Whereas gratefulness has to do with being fully alive and attentive, thankfulness has to do with cultivating gratitude in a social context.

Gratefulness without thanksgiving is incomplete and empty. Conversely, thanksgiving without gratefulness is disconnected from the Giver. Because I am grateful, I can be thankful. . . . What is it that inhibits gratefulness?

- We have too much stuff and too few life-giving friendships.
- We have too many distractions and too little silence.
- We are over-committed (too much doing) and under-rested (not enough being).
- We believe that we can only be grateful when we are happy.
- We'd rather ask God for what we want than thank God for what we have.
- We focus on the small stuff rather than look to the stars.
- We overeat at the Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts while starving ourselves of the Bread of life.

Joanna Macy has written, "Gratitude for the gift of life is the primary wellspring of all religions, the hallmark of the mystic, the source of all true art... It is a privilege to be alive in this time when we can choose to take part in the self-healing of our world."

United Methodist Women

On Thursday, January 18 at 9:30 am the UMW will meet for a brief business meeting and an interesting lesson. Everyone is welcome. Marlene Himes will provide the program and the treats. We look forward to the lesson and fellowship!



Golden Age Potluck

Come join us on Thursday, January 11 at 11:30 am at the Buffalo UMC for fellowship and good food. Bring a dish to share and a friend. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Would anyone be interested in playing cards or board games after the meal?



Garfield Backpack Update

Thanks for the donations for the 58 children receiving backpacks. The children were delighted with the treats, warm hats, gloves, and mittens.



Treat Bags for Christmas Eve Service

For many years Fred and Marlene Himes have provided bags with oranges, apples, and peanuts for our Christmas Eve Service. Thanks to everyone who donated extra treats and to Carla Lindball who decorated the bags.



February Caroling

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 11. After our Sunday morning service, we plan to visit church members who are in care centers or home bound. We will then return to the church for soup and all the fixings.



Bake Sale Report

Thanks to everyone who brought baked items for the Election Day sale on November 7. The poll workers and voters were eager consumers of the tasty treats, enabling us to collect \$54.



Administrative Board

As a new year begins, new board members will assume their duties. Barb Crawford will be the Board Chairperson and Margie Marrs will become the Board Secretary. Sheryl Arnett joins the Evangelism team, and Bob Marrs will be our delegate to annual conference. Thanks to the outgoing officers for their faithful service. The next Administrative Board meeting will be at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, January 17.



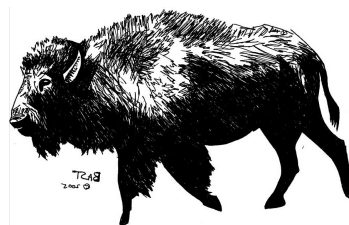
Reverse Advent Calendar Year # 2

We had another successful Reverse Advent project, collecting donations (both food and funds) for area food banks. Thanks to Nancy Carter for coordinating the distribution of the donations.



Human Relations Offering in January

The offering in January is for Human Relations, which strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. The money is used to encourage social justice and work with at-risk youth.

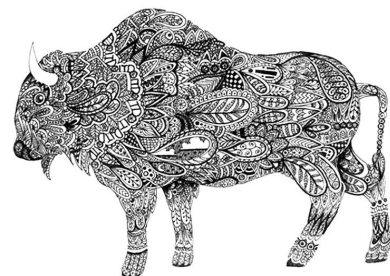


January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 11:30 am: Mission of Hope	3	4	5	6
7 8:45: Worship Service	8 9:00 am: Church Cleaning	9	10	11 11:30 am: Golden Age Potluck	12	13
14 8:45: Worship Service	15 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	16	17 4:00 pm: Administrative Board Meeting	18 9:30 am: United Methodist Women	19	20
21 8:45: Worship Service	22	23	24	25 9:30 am: NOOMA Bible Study	26	27
28 8:45: Worship Service	29	30	31	"A single grateful thought toward heaven is the most complete prayer." ~Gotthold Ephraim Lessing		

January Birthdays

- 6: Charlotte Stanford
- 8: Ward Seufferlein
- 14: Hepburn Hentrich Jr
Nancy Lacy
- 22: Sheryl Arnett



Holiday Dinner

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 21 at 12:00 noon for our annual dinner with Bertram Church members. The cost is \$14. The catered menu will include roast beef, turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans and lettuce salad w/dressing, rolls and spread. We will provide beverages and ask for desserts from attendees. Bring an appetite and a \$5 gift for a communal exchange. A sign-up sheet for those planning to attend will be in the worship center.

Buffalo UMC Upcoming Dates for 2018

January 2: Mission of Hope, serving lunch (11:30 am to 1:00 pm)
January 8: Cleaning Church (9 am)
January 11: Golden Age Pot Luck (11:30 am)
January 17: Administrative Board Meeting (4 pm)
January 18: United Methodist Women (9:30 am)
January 25: NOOMA Bible Study (9:30 am)

November Newsletter Items: Submit to Bob Marrs (rmarrs@coe.edu) by Monday, 22 January

To some men peace merely means the liberty to exploit other people without fear of retaliation or interference. To others peace means the freedom to rob others without interruption. To still others it means the leisure to devour the goods of the earth without being compelled to interrupt their pleasures to feed those whom their greed is starving. And to practically everybody peace simply means the absence of any physical violence that might cast a shadow over lives devoted to the satisfaction of their animal appetites for comfort and leisure. Many men like these have asked God for what they thought was "peace" and wondered why their prayer was not answered. They could not understand that it actually was answered. God left them with what they desired, for their idea of peace was only another form of war. ~Thomas Merton

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