

Buffalo United Methodist Church

January 2022

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Eight Beatitudes for Bishops

Bishop Laurie Haller

I am not a Pope-watcher, but . . . I just happened upon a few articles that describe what he's been up to recently while leading the 1.2 billion Roman Catholics in our world. Several weeks ago, Pope Francis shared with the Roman Catholic bishops of Italy what he calls his **Eight Beatitudes for Bishops**. Because The United Methodist Church and other denominations have female bishops, I have alternated feminine and male pronouns in these eight beatitudes below. I think the Pope's words to his bishops reflect the teaching of the humility of Christ and apply to all of us.

- BLESSED is the bishop who makes poverty and sharing her lifestyle because, with her witness, she builds the Kingdom of Heaven.
- BLESSED is the bishop who is not afraid to wet his face with tears that reflect the sorrow of the people; and blessed is the work of priests/clergy, who find God's consolation in the embrace with those who suffer.
- BLESSED is the bishop who considers her ministry a service and not a power, who makes meekness her strength, and gives everyone a right to a place in her heart, so as to give the promised land to the weak.
- BLESSED is the bishop who does not shut himself up in government buildings, who does not become a bureaucrat more attentive to statistics than to faces, to procedures than to stories, who seeks to fight alongside people for God's dream of justice because the Lord, encountered in the silence of daily prayer, will nourish him.
- BLESSED is the bishop who has a heart for the misery of the world, who is not afraid to dirty her hands with the mud of the human soul to find the gold of God; who is not scandalized by the sin and fragility of others because she knows her own misery because the look of the Risen Crucified One will be the seal of infinite forgiveness.

- BLESSED is the bishop who stays away from the duplicity of the heart, who avoids every ambiguous dynamic, who dreams of the good even in the midst of evil, because he will be able to rejoice in the face of God, finding God's reflection in every puddle in the city of people.
- BLESSED is the bishop who works for peace, who walks along the path of reconciliation, who plants the seed of communion and reconciliation in the hearts of priests/clergy, and who takes every man and woman of goodwill by the hand to build sisterhood: God will recognize her as her daughter.
- BLESSED is the bishop who is not afraid to go against the current for the Gospel and hardens his face like Jesus going to Jerusalem, without letting himself be stopped by misunderstandings and obstacles because he knows that the Kingdom of God moves forth against the world.

As I ponder the words of Pope Francis . . . I wonder.

- How might we, as disciples of Jesus Christ, give ourselves away as we engage in acts of service, love, and hope during Advent?
- How can we lead the way by refusing to be sucked into consumerism and indifference during this sacred season?
- How can we dream of the good within evil, finding God's reflection in every puddle in the city of people?
- How might we share our lifestyle, work for peace, and lead others along the path of reconciliation?
- Do we have the courage to dirty our hands with the mud of the human soul, finding the gold of God there?
- With faces wet with tears, dare we boldly confront the brokenness of our world, called to embrace all those who suffer and live in despair?

*[This is an abridged version of Bishop Haller's reflections on the Pope's Beatitudes, posted on December 13 to her blog *Leading from the Heart*.]*

Administrative Board Meeting

Here are a few issues addressed and decisions made at the December 15 meeting:

- The church's lawn mower will be serviced in January. It was suggested that in the spring a new liner, fresh wood chips, and wooden ties be purchased for the playground, but no final decision was made.
- In November the pianos in the Worship Center and Fellowship Hall were both serviced and tuned by a professional piano tuner.
- A new computer has been purchased for the electronic sign, and if all goes well the computer and updated software should make it easier for posting new messages to Buffalo's message board.
- Dates for the January Bible Study were set for a sequence of three Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on January 12, 19, & 26.
- The Board members reviewed and approved the Treasurer's proposed church budget for 2022. If you are interested in seeing how donations are used for Buffalo's maintenance and operation, please contact our church treasurer Judy Hackney (319-393-0188).
- Pastor Carol will host a meeting of Methodist clergy on February 8 and would like treats. Contact the pastor if you have questions or can provide treats.
- Dates were set for some big church events in 2022:
 - Pancake Breakfast: March 26 (8-11a.m.). In 2020 the breakfast profit was donated to Waypoint; a new recipient will be chosen at the next board meeting.
 - Rummage Sale: Thursday, June 9 (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) and Friday, June 10 (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
 - Ice Cream Social: Saturday, July 23 (4:00 - 7:00 pm)
 - Annual Bazaar: Saturday, October 22 (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
- The next meeting of the Administrative Board will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 16. Please contact a member of the Board if you have a church issue you would like for the Board to address during that meeting.

Neighborhood Pot Luck

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 13 for a pot luck meal and friendly conversations guaranteed to help us all stay warm and re-invigorated. Beverages and tableware will be provided. Please bring one or two wrapped gifts for a few games of Bingo.

Buffalo United Methodist Women

The January UMW meeting will be hosted by Chris Gochenouer at 9:00 a.m. on January 20. At UMW's last meeting in November the lesson was about "binding together," and the group created some beautiful doilies that are on display in the Meeting Room. If you would like to add a doily to our collection, contact Mary Fredericksen (319-651-6946).

January Bible Study

On three Wednesday morning in January, Bob Marrs will be leading a Bible Study focusing on the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew and the Sermon on the Plain in the Gospel of Luke. The first session on January 12 will discuss the two versions of the Beatitudes recorded in the gospels. The sessions on January 19 and 26 will explore the unique qualities of each sermon and their complementary portraits of Jesus as a teacher and source of wisdom. No preparation is required for attending these 50-minute conversations, and it is perfectly fine to attend one session without attending the others.

The Upper Room

Buffalo has for many years provided free copies of *The Upper Room*, but it has been brought to our attention that some members of the congregation might want to use the "large print" edition. Please contact Margie Marrs (phone 319-362-9494, email mmarrs@coe.edu, or in a person) if you would like to receive an easier-to-read version of this wonderful publication.

The Ecumenical Center

For many years the Buffalo congregation has supported the Ecumenical Center (located at 601 2nd Ave SE). They are currently in need of donations of money, personal care items, clothing, toilet tissue, dish soap, and dry laundry soap. Judy Hackney (319-393-0188) volunteers at the Ecumenical Center and will be glad to transport your donations.

January 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
2 8:45 am Worship Service	3	4	5	6 Feast of the Epiphany	7	1/8 New Year's Day
9 10:30 am Worship Service & Holiday Dinner (12:00 noon)	10	11	12 Bible Study (10:00 am)	13 Clean Church (9:00 am) Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	14	15
16 8:45 am Worship Service <i>Human Relations Day</i>	17 MLK Day	18	19 Bible Study (10:00 am)	20 UMW Meeting (9:00 am)	21	22
23 8:45 am Worship Service	24	25	26 Bible Study (10:00 am)	27	28	29
30 8:45 am Worship Service	31	<p>In the Sermon on the Plain (6th chapter of Luke), Jesus gives seven challenging commands for his followers: <i>Love your enemies – Do good to those who hate you – Bless those who curse you – Pray for those who use you spitefully – Turn the other cheek to those who strike you – Give generously to everyone who asks you – Treat others as you would have them treat you.</i></p>				

January Birthdays: 6 – Char Stanford 8 - Ward Seufferlein 14 – Hepburn Hentrich
 14 – Nancy Lacy 22 – Sheryl Arnett

Wedding Anniversaries: 1 – Hep Hentrich & Eileen Kaplan

January Special Offering

Human Relations Day (January 16) strengthens United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth. In December our Special Offering raised \$157.42 for the Green Square meals program. Thanks to our great bakers and skilled fudge makers, we also collected \$123.46 at the November 30 election bake sale.

Meeting of the Spic 'n Span Cleaning Committee

Males and females, young and old, Republicans and Democrats, native Iowans and immigrants, U.S. citizens and aliens, everyone is welcome at 9:00 a.m. on January 13 to help clean the church. We will also be packing away our Christmas decorations. As a special treat, all cleaners and friends of cleaners can stay for the Neighborhood Pot Luck lunch at 11:30.

Hy-Vee Receipts We continue to collect Hy-Vee receipts for Garfield Elementary School. Receipts can be placed in the large glass jar in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any friends or neighbors who shop at Hy-Vee, why not ask them if they would give you some of their receipts so we can increase our contributions to this worthy project.

Buffalo Calendar

Major Events on the 2022 Calendar

January 9: Worship at 10:30 a.m., followed by Holiday Luncheon

March 26: Pancake Breakfast (profits from this meal are donated to a local charity; bake sale revenue supports our church treasury)

June 9 & 10: Rummage Sale

July 23: Ice Cream Supper

October 22: Bazaar & Luncheon

The CleanMax Zoom

The Administrative Board authorized Chris Gochenouer to purchase a new vacuum cleaner for the church and the purchase has been made. We are now the proud owners of a CleanMax Zoom vacuum cleaner—advertised as the world’s fastest vacuum. Chris has already tested the new model. It is lightweight (8 lbs), has a long extension cord, and is very easy to use. Everyone is welcome to come to the church on January 13 (at 9:00 a.m.) and be among the first to use the new vacuum for sweeping up 2022 dirt.

Worship Service Bulletin Covers

As many of you may have noticed, in the past six months we have been using colorful, specially printed bulletin covers (found hiding in a filing cabinet) for our Sunday Morning Worship Services. Although they have been a refreshing addition to our worship service experiences, our supply is running low, and the Administrative Board is hoping we might save a few dollars by using for most Sunday morning services our own black and white designs--which might include seasonal sketches, favorite Bible verses, song lyrics, Christian symbols (such as the UMC’s cross and flame), or art work for which we need not pay any fees. If you have recommendations for future bulletin covers, please pass on your graphic design proposals to Pastor Carol or Bob Marrs.

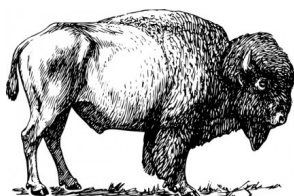
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Did you know that a list of voting members on the Administrative Board (as well as all other committee and assigned positions for 2022) is available on the “Ministries” page of the church’s website
<http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>.

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Since 1876