



July 2017

# Buffalo United Methodist Church



## Living in Community

At Annual Conference, the Buffalo congregation received an award for our participation in *Change a Child's Story*. We donated over 350 books and provided 35 hours of reading pleasure to all kinds of kids. Many of the books were distributed through the Garfield Elementary Backpack program, which we participate in every week. The success of the program depends on our keeping our promise to those children every week, rain or shine. Many of you donated food and snacks, donated books, donated money, and donated the time and effort to pack those backpacks. Together we were able to create an impressive result!

That teamwork--the strong, dependable kind that finds a way to keep on going no matter what--is the same teamwork we are called to as a community of faith. No single person has to do it all. Our grandparents used to say "Many hands make light work," and that is just as true of our church as it is of farm chores. The Book of Acts tells us in Ch.2 that the very earliest believers pulled together as a group:

*Many miracles and wonders were being done through the apostles, and everyone was filled with awe. All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each needed. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, praising God, and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.*

I know times have changed, and now we don't live as communally as did the early church. But there are still things that we share with each other. When you facebook good news or prayer requests to each other so we stay connected. When you send cards to celebrate or commiserate. When you come together to cut down a wind-blown tree. When you clean the church (which we will need to do after all the dust of installing the new windows!) When we pray for each other. When you agree to take on a job--nominations time is fast approaching. When we are doing all of these things, we are weaving together a strong and resilient community, specifically targeted at sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Living in community is one of the spiritual disciplines we are called upon to participate in. Last month I talked about the discipline of fasting, and I wonder if anyone has a story to share about trying it. I did not completely succeed in my fasting from buying books, but I did manage to not purchase any "just for fun" reading. Perhaps work books don't count? I appreciated the reminders from several of you to hold "fast" to my goal. What other types of disciplines could we benefit from here at Buffalo? Taking better care of the bodies that God has given us? Going deeper into the Scriptures? Having fun and playing together? Perhaps helping with the Women at the Well program? I am not advocating just adding more "jobs" for us to take on --**no one** at Buffalo is slacking about their church work! But maybe we can find ways of deepening and enriching our mutual faith, just as Jesus called us to do. ~Pastor Kathryn

## Golden Age Potluck

Come join us on Thursday, July 13 at 11:30 am at the Buffalo UMC for fellowship and good food! Bring a friend (or friends) and a dish to share. Place settings and beverages will be provided. Hope to see you the following G.A.P. on August 10.



## Mission of Hope

No serving this month because the first Tuesday on the month is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.



## June Rummage Sale, Bake Sale, & Hot Dog Lunch Benefit for Don & Becky

The sale and lunch went well. The profit from both days was over \$1500.

**Thanks** to everyone who helped in any way!



## Save Hy-Vee receipts and Box Tops for Education

Please save receipts from Hy-Vee and box tops for education. There is a glass jar in the church sanctuary for the receipts and box tops.



## Notes of Appreciation

☞ Thanks to Gary H. for cutting up the tree that came down with the windstorm on June 14. Also thanks to Judy H., Luke K., & George G. for their assistance.

☞ Thanks to Hep H. for fixing a crumbling footing of a load bearing post and making sure the wall of the middle room is protected before the new parking lot is completed.

☞ Thanks to Carla L. for the beautiful plantings around the church sign.

## Buffalo UMC Upcoming Events

July 15 (tentative): Ice Cream Supper 4 to 7 pm  
October 14: Fall Bazaar 8 to 3 pm  
October 29: Trunk or Treat 4 to 5 pm

## Bertram UMC Upcoming Events

August 19: Bertram Homecoming, Bertram City Park  
August 20: Worship in the Park, Bertram City Park  
October 14: Fall Supper at Bertram Township Hall



## Buffalo UMC Board Meeting June 21

- The windows in the sanctuary were installed the week of June 19.
- There are radishes and peas to harvest in the garden. If you need exercise, there are always weeds to pull.
- Parking lot work should start in July following repair of the sidewalk.
- No Board Meeting in July; the next Board Meeting will be August 16 at 4:00 pm



## Buffalo Herb Garden

Fresh herbs ready for harvesting include several varieties of basil, mint, oregano, sage, rosemary, chives, fennel, lemon balm, and cilantro. Many of these herbs benefit from regular pruning, so feel free to trim a few leaves for an upcoming meal.

## Special Offering for July

Rural Life Sunday



Submit August newsletter items by Monday, July 24 to Bob Marrs ([rmarrs@coe.edu](mailto:rmarrs@coe.edu)).



# Buffalo Church Calendar

July 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>“We are not saved by doing, getting, or serving enough. We are saved by faith, hope, and love. Each step we take toward someone else, each word that shows grace, each act of kindness ... is enough.” ~Bishop Haller</b></p>						1
2 8:45 am : Worship Service	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9 8:45 am : Worship Service	10	11	12	13 11:30 am: Golden Age Potluck	14	15 4 - 7:00 pm: Ice Cream Supper (tentative date)
16 8:45 am : Worship Service	17	18	19	20 UMW trip to Festina, Spillville, Clermont, & Gunder	21	22
23 8:45 am : Worship Service	24 August Newsletter Submission Deadline	25	26	27	28	29
30 8:45 am : Worship Service	31	<p><b>On August 1 Buffalo will serve as Polling Place #14 to determine how voters will select county supervisors. Polls will be open from 7 am to 9 pm</b></p>				

July Birthdays: Fred Himes (July 31) has the month all to himself.

We cannot control what will happen to the seeds we sow, the words we speak, the actions we take. We can only be as honorable, truthful, and compassionate as we are able. The moment we try to control what does or does not happen, we are left in a lingering state of insufficiency, wondering what more we could, should, have done to make it all come out right...’ ~from *A Life of Being, Having, and Doing Enough* by Wayne Miller (quoted by Bishop Haller in her June 19 blog posting)

## “Enough” by Bishop Laurie Haller

In early 1994, I saw the movie *Schindler's List*, which is based on a true story and had a profound effect upon my life. Oskar Schindler is a German businessman who travels to Krakow, Poland in 1939 to make his fortune from World War 2. Schindler joins the Nazi party to help his career and staffs his factory with Jewish workers for economic reasons. An opportunist, Schindler manages to protect his Jewish workers ... and his profits. Eventually, however, Schindler realizes that he is actually saving their lives.

Oskar Schindler literally saves the lives of 1,100 Jews from being gassed at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. At the end of the movie, Schindler is given a ring in front of all his workers as a sign of their gratitude. The man presenting the ring to Schindler says about the ring's inscription, "It's Hebrew from the Talmud. It says, "Whoever saves one life saves the world entire."

In the movie, when Schindler realizes the extent of the Nazi extermination of Jews and what he has done to protect his workers, he breaks down and weeps. "I could have got more. I could have got more. If I just ... I could have got more."

"1,100 more people are alive because of you," the man responds.

"If I made more money... I threw away so much money." Sobbing, Schindler continues, "You have no idea... If I just ..."

"Generations will remember..."

"I didn't do enough..."

"You did so much."

"This car. Why did I keep the car? That's ten people right there... Ten people. Ten more people. This pin is two people. This is gold. Two more people. It would have given more two more, one at least. For this I could have gotten one more person and I didn't... And I didn't."

I thought of *Schindler's List* as we neared the end of the Iowa Annual Conference and were trying to fit in everything that was on our agenda. Could we have done more? Was the offering to God of our commitment to be difference makers enough? Whose report was left out? What words were left

unsaid? How could we have done better? Was annual conference enough?

I have struggled my entire life with enough because God's claim on me has been so strong. How can I rest when people are hungry? How can I say "no" when people in my church are counting on me? How can I stop when the to-do list never ends? I could have done more. When is enough? What is enough, anyway?

At the conclusion of Annual Conference on June 12, I shared with the body these words, which could apply to many different settings. "We have done enough. Over the last several days, we have worshipped, prayed, ordained, served, taken offerings, hugged, debated, voted, laughed, cried... and now we are done. We pray that we have been difference makers at this annual conference. We pray that the fruit we bear when we leave here and the crosses we bear when we go back to our communities as servants will honor and glorify God. Yet there is often the nagging sense that it is not enough.

Reinhold Niebuhr writes in his book, *The Irony of American History*,

*Nothing that is worth doing is achieved in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope.*

*Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense*

*In any immediate context of history.*

*Therefore, we must be saved by faith.*

*Nothing we do, however, virtuous, can be accomplished alone;*

*Therefore, we are saved by love.*

[The conclusion of Bishop Haller's June 19 blog posting is available at the following web address: <http://www.lauriehaller.org/enough/>]



## **The Bison Blog**

### **Passages from Recent Postings on the Buffalo UMC Website**

- To be young is to worship in churches  
we did not build.  
To be mature is to build churches  
in which we will not worship. ~Ernest Campbell

- The right constraints can lead to your very best  
work. . . . Dr. Seuss wrote *The Cat in the Hat* with only  
236 different words, so his editor bet him he couldn't  
write a book with only 50 different words. Dr. Seuss  
came back and won the bet with *Green Eggs and Ham*,  
one of the best selling children's books of all time.  
~James A. Harnish

**Buffalo United Methodist Church**  
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## **United Methodist Women Trip**

The UMW are planning a trip on July 20 to visit the smallest church in Festina, the Bily Clocks Museum in Spillville, and Montauk (the governor's mansion) in Clermont. The trip will include lunch in Gunder, home of the world-famous Gunderburger. The expedition will leave the church at 8:00 am, hoping to return before 5:00 pm.

To make your reservation for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, contact Sheila Gatewood.  
Phone: 319-365-5109  
Email: [sheilagatewood1@gmail.com](mailto:sheilagatewood1@gmail.com)

