

Buffalo United Methodist Church

July 2021

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Pastor Carol's Desk

Greetings. As your new pastor, I would like to tell you a little about myself. My name is Carol Mart, and I'm 74 years old. I started working at Collins Radio Company in 1965 and continued until 2001. My main job was in inspection, but I was also trained by the Bellgard Group, which helped the office and factory folks learn how to work together.

After retirement I started a small craft business, but I felt there was something missing in my life. That is when I became active in Asbury UMC. At first I was the quietest person around, but that didn't last long. I got involved in Kids Club (ages from 5 to 11). It was so much fun, watching the children learning more about God and how God helps us each and every day. I also started working at Hy-Vee Drug (fulfilling a dream job--I always wanted to be a cashier), being involved in hospice training, and working with abused women.

In preparation for my work as I pastor, I attended United Central College in Missouri and am continuing as a student at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. I have eight classes to finish my graduate studies, taking some classes online and occasionally traveling to Morningside University in Sioux City. For ten years I served as the pastor at Clarence UMC.

After my retirement from the ministry because of personal health issues, I received a call from our District Superintendent. My health problems have been resolved, and I am very excited to begin this new adventure we will be taking together here at Buffalo UMC.

I have two sons. Lance is 52 and married to Tracy, a wonderful woman. They have no children, except for a little four-legged fur baby. Al, my younger son, is 48

and also married to a wonderful woman, Jessi. They are parents of my one and only grandchild, Bailey, who just turned 7 in May.

I am an animal lover. I have three dogs of my own and two cats--all rescue animals--and I am a rescue mom for Fur Fun Rescue. Over the years I have cared for about 60 different dogs. We are given the task of helping them be socialized (and house trained) and giving them lots of love until their forever family adopts them.

As a pastor, I have always had an open door policy. If you need to talk with me, you can call or text me at anytime. I promise to return your calls or texts within a timely fashion.

In my journey as a minister, I have met many wonderful people. Our journey takes us in directions we don't always expect, but I have found that with God by our side, our travels in life will be humbling and rewarding.

God Bless,

~Pastor Carol Mart

Be Bold Grant

Buffalo UMW has received a \$1000.00 grant from the Iowa UMW Conference for helping the "Save Our Sisters" that are part of Tanager place. There are girls from Garfield Elementary that belong to that group. The congregation will also be providing craft supplies and snacks for this group.

*Congratulations to Buffalo's great UMW
Job well done--as always.*

Administrative Board Meeting

Issues addressed at the June 16 Board meeting included the following:

- The Rummage Sale produced a revenue of \$616, a total that may increase with further sales. The Board voted that in 2022 we will return to scheduling this annual June fund-raiser on a Thursday and Friday.
- An HP laptop with disk drive and Windows has been donated for use with the church's electric sign, but the computer is missing a power cord. The Board approved the church should purchase a new power cord.
- With regard to the new labyrinth, the sculptor Cara Briggs-Farmer will be submitting a proposal for a permanent structure at the back of the labyrinth that could be used for installing a wind chimes. The design would utilize the four posts that were previously holding up the softball field backstop. The recycling of the posts will save substantial money since steels prices have risen significantly in the past year.
- Creekside Nursery in Springville will provide Buffalo with free wild flowers that can be transplanted to the northwest corner of the church property.
- Rev. Paul Aiken has agreed to serve as the primary speaker for the Sunday morning worship service on August 15 as part of the 145th Anniversary Celebration. Prior to his retirement, Rev. Aiken was the minister at Lovely Lane and the First Methodist congregation in Iowa City.
- Pastor Kathryn's sister Janet Spoerl will conduct our worship service on Sunday, July 4. The following Sunday will be the first Sunday when our new pastor will assume her pulpit duties.
- The three-year old grandson of Bob & Margie Marrs attended the Board meeting. While he did not participate in any deliberations, with the assistance of several board members he did assemble a large jigsaw puzzle of a fire engine, and he expressed his approval at the many cool toys available in the meeting room.
- The next board meeting will be Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 10:00 am

July Special Offering

Rural Life Sunday celebrates the rural heritage of the United Methodist Church and recognizes "the ongoing crisis occurring in rural areas of the nation and the world today." Rural Life is traditionally observed on the third Sunday in May but a Sunday in July can work just as well.

2021 Iowa Annual Conference

This was the second year when the annual conference was conducted over Zoom. While such remote conferencing strips away these gatherings' personal resonance, digital conferences do have the advantage of saving a substantial amount of money. Because of unexpected computer glitches, I missed several hours of two sessions the first weekend in June, but I don't think I missed any votes. Here are a few of my notes on the Saturday and Sunday meetings.

- A recurrent phrase throughout the conference: "Connected in Christ: watching over one another in love."
- A report by the Anti-Racism Leadership Team emphasized that it's not enough to be a non-racist, we must be anti-racist. Just as we must decide if we are going to be an "almost Christian" or a complete "all-in Christian." The Bishop reminded us "we are an Easter people . . . who speak truth to power."
- We watched a video on "circuit ministries." One pastor talked about feeling "beat up" by the demands of ministry; pastors need an opportunity to rejuvenate.
- The Treasurer reported that in 2020 the annual conference experienced a 19% decrease in revenue but a 28% decrease in expenditures. The PPP loans of \$2.3 million (which have been forgiven) ensured that the conference could operate in the black during the past fiscal year. The conference's staff size has been reduced in the last eight years from 52.7 FTE to 31.95.
- The sound quality of several sessions was often distorted, and I relied on closed captioning—a system which did produce some amusing errors: "opera" for "opportunity"; "a pine" for "opined"; and my favorite: "a boat of passion" for "a board of pension."
- Intriguing to consider the different phrases we use for beginning public prayers. Here is a sample from the conference: "Holy spirit. . . . Beautiful spirit of peace Dear Redeeming Christ Living, faithful, and most merciful God Gracious God"
- Our final business was voting on the disposal of conference property for churches closed in the last year, many of these congregations dating back to the 19th century (oldest was 1855). The Bishop appeared near tears as she offered a final prayer in recognition of these these congregations' long history of faithful service. I was particularly touched by the closing of a church in Clarke County; their building was a virtual duplicate of my home church in Kansas.

~Bob Marrs (Buffalo Lay Delegate)

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
For up-to-date information on the 145 th Anniversary Celebration, visit the church's website home page: <i>http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/</i>				1	2	3
4 8:45 am Worship Service Guest Minister: Janet Spoerl	5	6	7 Buffalo Guys 'n Gals Church Cleaning (9:00 am)	8	9	10
11 8:45 am Worship Service Pastor Carol's first service	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 8:45 am Worship Service	19	20	21 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 am)	22	23	24
25 8:45 am Worship Service	26	27	28	29	30	31

July Birthdays/Wedding Anniversaries. No anniversaries but one great birthday: Fred Himes on July 31.

Buffalo's 145th Anniversary Celebration

*Weekend schedule for the big celebration on
Saturday and Sunday, August 14 & 15.*

- Saturday Evening Camp Meeting & Hymn Sing (6:30-8:00 pm). This event will include a dedication of the Hahn Memorial Sculpture; the camp meeting and hymn sing will be followed by scrumptious refreshments.
- Sunday Morning Worship Service (10:30 am). Rev. Paul Aiken will be our guest speaker..
- Catered Luncheon (12:00 noon). This meal will include Buffalo burgers, vegetables, salads, home-grown tomatoes, home-made Buffalo cookies. Free to all but donations welcome and reservations required.
- Post-Luncheon Activities: too diverse to list in this small space.
- Dedication of the Buffalo Labyrinth and memorials (2:00-2:30 pm).

We Still Need Volunteers for the Big Celebration.

Here are a few jobs for which we need volunteers. You can enter your name on the sign-up sheet available in the back of the worship center or contact Bob Marrs (email: rmarrs@coe.edu; home phone: 319-362-9494).

- Help distribute flyers/brochures, inviting Buffalo's neighbors to the celebration.
- Help with mailing of post cards and other phone or email communications.
- Help bake Buffalo cookies and prepare other goodies for Saturday and Sunday events.
- Help set up and serve food for Saturday and/or Sunday events.
- Help with Sunday afternoon memorial service.
- Help clean up after Saturday and/or Sunday events.
- Help with Saturday evening hymn sing (hand out programs, set up sound system, etc).
- Offer to assist with a task not identified on this list

Help in the Storm

[During the storm at sea] the soldiers' counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape. But the centurion, willing to save Paul, kept them from their purpose. ... And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land. Acts 27:42-44 (KJV)

Had it not been for a Roman centurion named Julius, the Christian faith might never have made it to Rome and spread throughout the Empire. He saved not only the Apostle Paul's life during a storm at sea, but the lives of Silas and the other prisoners. Yet after Acts 27, his name is never mentioned again.

The Roman Legion had a lot of centurions, and though they ranked above the average legionnaire, only a few were remembered. Many, like Julius, faded into obscurity. But were it not for him, Paul and all the rest would have been lost. The Christian faith might have been lost as well.

The debt that Christians owe the centurion makes me wonder about other people to whom I owe my life, especially during this pandemic. The church community, family and friends, to be sure. But there

are many others, whose names I seldom know. Perhaps you're indebted to them, too: public health workers, hospital staffs, aides and housekeepers; people who stock shelves at grocery stores and harvest the crops; truck drivers and ambulance drivers. The list goes on and on.

Even when the pandemic is history, we need to remember them, just as we need to remember the centurion who saved Paul and all the rest who made it safe to land.

Prayer: Help us remember and give thanks, O God, for those who brought us through this storm. Amen.

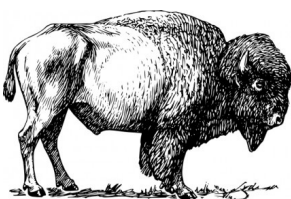
["Help in the Storm" was recently posted to the United Church of Christ Daily Devotional website. The author is Talitha Arnold, the Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (UCC) in Santa Fe, New Mexico.]

RADA knives are reduced by 20% (think Christmas). Some items available include heavy duty paring knives, knives to cut bagels and cheese, vegetable peelers, and French Chef's knives. Contact Barb Crawford (826-2468) or Marlene Himes (393-3374) if you have questions.

Buffalo United Methodist Church

1000 30th St NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Since 1876