



June 2017

Buffalo United Methodist Church



Iowa Annual Conference in June

I will be in Des Moines on June 10-12 for the Iowa Annual Conference. This is the annual business meeting of The United Methodist Church, but it is much more than that. Methodist clergy have been gathering annually in the United States since 1773 in order to determine the logistics of running the church, support one another in faithful community, hear outstanding preaching and worship, and mourn for the companions in Christ who had been lost in the previous year. In Iowa, the Evangelical and United Brethren denominations began conferencing in 1843, while the Methodists got a late start in 1856. We have changed our boundaries and divisions, been divided by language and race into "sub" Conferences, and sung thousands of hymns across the years.

This year the Iowa Annual Conference will accomplish many things: we will welcome Bishop Haller to our state; we will worship together, laity and clergy; we will recognize beginning and ending pastorates (me!); and we will vote on a seemingly endless list of items. Some of the issues will probably reflect the issues currently facing the national denomination. At the very least, I expect that there will be many calls for clarity and information about those issues. There will also be fundraising for special missions, decisions about important financial and logistical issues, and much celebrating of new and emerging ministries!

Judy Hackney is our lay delegate to Annual Conference. Please feel free to talk with her both before and after Conference about the important

votes that she will be participating in. This is my first time to be a clergy delegate, although I have been a lay delegate before. There is always equal representation between clergy and laity at Annual Conference, and each vote counts independently. I know that both Judy and I crave your prayers and support while we are in Des Moines. Conference can be heart-breaking, but it can also create an entirely new vision of ministry in the souls of those who are attending. If you would like to visit, observers are always welcome at HyVee Hall. The food may be debatable but the worship is amazing!

Annual Conferences have traditionally been closed by the singing of "And Are We Yet Alive" by Charles Wesley. Historically, Conference was often the only time that clergy saw each other, and death had often taken a toll on their numbers. Let me share a few of the verses with you:

*And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace.
What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!
Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.
Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain. (1749)*

Pastor Kathryn

Iowa UMC Bishop on U.S. Immigration Policies and the Church

[Bishop Laurie Haller's blog posting for March 27, 2017 begins with the words of a undocumented mother of two who has lived in Des Moines for twenty years.]

I don't know what to do. My husband died two weeks ago. I don't have time to grieve. I'm too worried about taking care of my kids. The other day I was rear-ended, and my car is a mess. I am so lucky the policeman didn't give me a ticket for not having a license. But he told me not to drive. Now he knows my car because of the dented fender, so how do I get to work?

My kids are devastated from their father's death and the trauma of living with a cancer patient for years. My husband was diagnosed when our youngest was two years old. Almost all of his life, our son has lived with the possibility of his father dying and also with the threat of both his parents being deported. It has traumatized him.

I was at work the other day when someone ran into the office, saying, "ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is driving around in the neighborhood!" I was terrified. What would happen to my children if I'm deported? . . . Every time I drive, I'm worried that I'll be picked up. . . . What am I supposed to do? Stay behind locked doors in my house? How will I work? How will I buy food, make my house payment, pay the electric bill? I have been in Des Moines for twenty years.

My husband had and I have no criminal record – nothing. Our daughter is a student at the university, and our son is in high school. If I'm sent back to the country in which I was born, what will happen to my son? Should he come with me? But then he would lose his educational opportunities. He's a very good student. All I have are questions. No one has the answers. Lawyers can't even tell me what's going to happen because no one knows how the laws are going to be interpreted. People tell me, "Become

legal." How? There's no way. I applied fifteen years ago, and I have at least five more years to wait to even be considered for permanent residency.

The place where people worship in a church building is called the "sanctuary." The concept of sanctuary or "safe places" for people to flee is found in Numbers 35:10-11, where God says to Moses, "When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, so that a slayer who kills a person without intent may flee there." The biblical practice of sanctuary was to protect an accused person from vigilante justice until a fair trial could be held. . . .

In medieval England, from at least the 12th to the 16th centuries, sanctuary was a legal procedure in both the church and secular law. Once accused persons made it into the safety of a churchyard, a community was legally obligated to keep them safe and feed them for up to forty days. After forty days, fugitives often had to confess, give up their possessions, and walk barefoot to the nearest port where they would live in exile for the rest of their life.

It is important to note that the concept of US faith communities providing sanctuary to undocumented immigrants has no legal standing, which means that housing an undocumented immigrant in a church building is a violation of federal law. At the same time, there are currently faith communities housing immigrants across the US as a sign of God's love, and historically, immigration enforcement agents have not entered houses of faith to remove a person. The new Executive Order has removed the previous administration's practice of prioritizing the deportation of undocumented immigrants convicted of serious crimes. . . .

What can we do to help our brothers and sisters who have made this country their home but live in constant terror? Dare we sacrifice the safety of others in order to ensure our own safety and comfort? Can we turn against our own neighbors? How do we preserve the dignity of others and work for the common good of all of God's children?

[Bishop Haller's Blog Posting cont.]

- When immigrants have to wait twenty years before even being considered for permanent residency, how can we be a voice for immigration reform?
- In Iowa and other states, there is a network of faith communities that is willing to provide support for immigrant families in need. (iowasanctuary.org)
- Support for those who are vulnerable can be given in different ways: through finances, meals, rides, child care, and prayer.
- Direct people to Justice for our Neighbors, a United Methodist free legal immigration ministry in many states, including Iowa.
- Churches can advertise their support for immigrant communities and welcome all people to worship and participate.

[The complete text of Bishop Haller's blog posting is available at the following web address:

<http://www.lauriebhallor.org/page/3/>]

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2)



Golden Age Potluck

Because of the June Rummage Sale, there will be no Golden Age Potluck in June, but it's not too early to start preparing for the July potluck, which will be held on Thursday, July 13, beginning at 11:30 am. Bring a friend or friends and a dish to share. Place settings and beverages will be provided.

“The aliens shall be to you as citizens, and shall also be allotted an inheritance.” (Ezekiel 47:21-22)

Mission of Hope Tuesday, June 6

If you would like to help serve the noon meal at the Mission of Hope, please contact Barb C. @ 378-4258. The Mission of Hope address is 1700 B Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

We continue to collect canned food, cereal, etc. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please indicate on the check Memo line that the money should be donated to the MOH. The checks can be made out to Buffalo United Methodist Church and the money will be sent to the MOH.

Popping Corn at Garfield

Our 4th year for popping corn at Garfield Elementary School has come to a close. We raised \$602 this school year to help HACAP provide food for the weekly backpacks given to Garfield students. Kudos to the volunteers who have helped pop corn, packed backpacks, and donated money for this worthy cause.

HOSANNAS!

Thanks to Gary H. for changing light bulbs in the Sanctuary and fixing the noisy fan (while also upgrading the lighting) in the middle bathroom.

Thanks to the ladies who clean the church monthly. Linda O. helped in May. She is very handy with the vacuum cleaner!



Please submit July Newsletter items by Monday, June 19 to Bob Marrs (rmarrs@coe.edu).

“I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

**Rummage Sale
Bake Sale
Hot Dog Lunch
June 8 & 9**

Benefit for Don & Becky Durand

Bertram UMC and Buffalo UMC will work together to provide items and food for a rummage sale, bake sale, and hot dog lunches (to be served from 11 am to 1 p.m. both days). A free will donation will be collected for the lunch. Sale times: 8:00 am to 6 pm on Thursday, June 8; 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Friday, June 9. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Don and Becky D. to help them with their medical expenses.

Rummage sale items are still needed. The more the better! Volunteers are always needed. If you wish to help—either in preparing for the Rummage Sale or helping on either day of the sale--contact Chris G. at 363-5000.

**Buffalo UMC Board Meeting Report
May 17, 2017**

Information shared during the board meeting:

- New windows will be installed by Hometown Restyling some time in June on the east and west walls of the Sanctuary.

- The parking lot will be expanded and resurfaced in June, probably the week after the Rummage Sale. Two bioretention cells will be installed (near the bell tower and the entrance drive) to help with water runoff from the church roof and parking lot. The city will help with the cost of the bioretention cells.

- Gardening, planting, and weed removal continues. Dates to gather weekly include:
Sundays – 4 pm to 5:30 pm
Tuesdays – 8:30 am to 10 am
Thursdays – 4 pm to 5:30 pm

**New Additions to Pastor Kathryn's
Saddle Bag Library**

Books available in the Meeting Room

- *Fully Awake and Truly Alive: Spiritual Practices to Nurture Your Soul* by Rev. Jane Vennard
- *Launch Your Encore: Finding Adventure and Purpose Later in Life* by Hans Finzel and Rick Hicks
- *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg
- *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War* by Rita Brock and Gabriella Lettini
- *What We're Fighting for Now is Each Other: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Climate Justice* by Wen Stephenson
- *Don't Know Much about the Bible: Everything You Need to Know About the Good Book but Never Learned* by Kenneth C. Davis

And on the subject of books, a personal request from Pastor Kathryn: “Please remember to pray for me as I attempt to fast for 30 days from purchasing any new books, which will be especially challenging among the displays at Annual Conference! I expect you to hold me accountable.”

**Two Passages from the May 25 Bison
Blog Posting on the Buffalo Website**

I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne 13 children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me.

—Sojourner Truth, 1851

In reading Chesterton . . . I did not know what I was letting myself in for. A young man who wishes to remain a sound Atheist cannot be too careful of his reading. There are traps everywhere—“Bibles laid open, millions of surprises,” as Herbert says, “fine nets and stratagems.” God is, if I may say it, very unscrupulous.

—C. S. Lewis (*Surprised by Joy*, 1955)

June Calendar

June 2017						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>“For the Lord your God ... loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Deut. 10:18-19)</p>				1	2	3
4 8:45 - Worship	5	6 11:00 am Mission of Hope	7	8 Rummage Sale 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Lunch served 11:00 am to 1:00 pm	9 Rummage Sale 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Lunch served 11:00 am to 1:00 pm	10 First day of 3-day Iowa Annual Conference in Des Moines
11 8:45 - Worship Service led by UMW	12 Probable beginning date for parking lot upgrade	13	14	15 11:30 am: UMW Secret Pal Luncheon	16	17
18 8:45 - Worship Father's Day	19 Deadline for July Newsletter submissions	20	21 4:00 pm: Administrative Board Meeting First Day of Summer	22	23	24
25 8:45 - Worship	26	27	28	29	30	Notes:

June Birthdays

2 - Tom Fredericksen
4 - Tom Houlahan
16 - Wayne Rayman
25 - David Seufferlein

June Anniversaries

27 - Tom & Kathy Houlahan
29 - Larry & Joyce Hartmann



United Methodist Women

On June 15 (Thursday) at 11:30 am, the annual Secret Pal Luncheon will be held at Buffalo UMC. We will have a good time as the secret pals guess who has sent cards to them each month of the past year.

On July 20 (Thursday), we will take a trip to a tiny church in Spillville to see the Bily Clocks and then to Clermont to visit the Montauk mansion, home of Iowa's twelfth governor. We will also stop for lunch along the way. More information will be available closer to the trip date. Please let Judy H. (393-0188) or Barb C. (826-2468) know if you would like to attend.

Save Hy-Vee Receipts and Box Tops for Education

Please continue to 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. Thanks!

Buffalo United Methodist Church
1000 30th St
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Special Offering for June

Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. One half of this offering stays in Iowa for Iowa Conference justice ministries.

Buffalo UMC Upcoming Events

June 8 & 9: Rummage Sale
July 15: 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

