

Buffalo United Methodist Church

June 2020

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



What Footprints Will You Leave?

by Bishop Laurie Haller

[Although Bishop Haller's May 26 blog post is addressed to this year's high school and college graduates, her insight and advice also applies to any of us dealing with other stages of our life's journey. Her unabridged text is available at <http://www.lauriehaller.org/what-footprints-will-you-leave/>]

When I first saw it, I was upset and disappointed. Across the road from the episcopal residence in Clive, preparation for a new subdivision is underway. Over the past several months, Gary and I have watched as a mile stretch of road has been increased from two to four lanes, with a wide median strip, sidewalks on both sides, and dozens of newly planted trees.

The day we used the sidewalk for the first time, however, I noticed that someone had decided to leave their mark by walking on the wet cement with a dog. I am sure the individual thought it was funny, but the reality is that this sidewalk will be forever marred by intentional footprints and pawprints.

Over this past Memorial Day weekend, as I walked the sidewalk, I remembered the legacy those who have gone before me whose footprints I hope to emulate in my own life. I also walked figuratively with those who are celebrating the joy of graduations, even in the midst of COVID-19. . . . As I ponder this tender time of graduations in the midst of COVID-19, four words come to mind that I hope for each graduate as they live out God's call in their professional as well as personal life. I invite you to forward this blog on to those you know who are graduating.

The first word I hope for you is responsibility. "Responsibility" comes from the Latin root, *respondere*, which means "to promise back." I prefer to divide the word into two parts, "response" and "ability." Do you remember the scripture from Luke 12:48, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be

demanded." Eugene Peterson paraphrases this verse in *The Message* in an easy way, "*Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!*" . . .

The second word I hope for you is wonder. When our son was five years old, we were lying outside looking at the stars, and he said, "It looks like God took a big sheet of paper and poked holes in it. Then God shined light through it and made the stars!"

One of my favorite quotes comes from E.B. White, "Every morning I awake torn between a desire to save the world and an inclination to savor it. This makes it hard to plan the day. But if we forget to savor the world, what possible reason do we have for saving it? In a way, the savoring must come first." We adults are often pretty serious and intense and need to lighten up. When I see you laugh, joke around, enjoy your friends, and have fun, you teach me to savor the world at the same time as I seek to save it. Never lose your sense of wonder and joy. Keep learning. Keep searching. Love life. Enjoy every minute.

The third word I hope for you is persistence. Each of you understands persistence because you are either heading for college or graduate school, or you are looking for a job. It can be demoralizing to be ready to enter the work world as an adult but have to spend day after day networking and searching for employment opportunities, especially during the time of COVID-19. . . . Be assured that you will eventually find a job. But also know that this will not be the only time you are tested in life. Rejection and failure are as common as affirmation and success. I wish for you a mental toughness that takes intelligent risks and bold action and never gives up. Remember that nothing worthwhile comes easily.

. . . I hope that you can embrace adversity when it comes. May you choose to gain wisdom through the struggle, for life is a constant process of growth, stretching, death, and rebirth. What will help you move through the

difficult times is a supportive network of family and friends and the knowledge that God journeys with you and loves you no matter what. Doors that close can open up new worlds that help us to grow stronger and more confident. It was Ralph Waldo Emerson who pointed out, *"When it is dark enough, you can see the stars."* Remember the God who poked holes through the dark with the light.

The fourth word I hope for you is integrity. The root word for integrity comes from the Latin word *integritas* (integer), which means whole, complete, or undivided. If your inner and outer lives are integrated, you will never act in a way that is contrary to the spiritual truths you have been taught and know about yourself.

The characteristics of an integrated life are honesty, compassion, fairness, and the courage to find your own voice in this world. I call it leading from the heart, which is nothing more than integrating the physical, relational, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual aspects of your personality into a coherent whole.

Here are my top ten suggestions for leaving footprints that will change the world.

- Who you are is more important than what you do. "Be the change you want to see in the world." (Mahatma Ghandi)
- Discover your passion and let your dreams lead the way.
- Don't neglect your inner life. Take time to reflect. Be self-aware.
- Don't forget to listen to your heart when you have to make tough decisions.
- Remember, God loves you not because you are good but because God is good.
- Have the courage to do the right things, show compassion for the very least of God's children, and resist injustice and oppression wherever you see it.
- Seek peaceful resolutions for every conflict in which you find yourself.
- Don't get sucked into a lifestyle that does not ultimately satisfy. Money will never make you happy, but generosity will.
- If you hold on to anger and bitterness, you will only poison yourself. Forgive at all costs.
- Your mission in life? Be an imitator of the whole life of Jesus Christ.

You have seen and experienced the world. Now find your place in it.

You have discovered your voice. Now let it sing.

You know who created you. Now poke holes in the darkness and reflect God's light.

What footsteps will you leave?

No Bake Sale

Since our annual Pancake Breakfast fund raiser was canceled, we are now accepting financial donations for a No Bake Sale.

Financial Obligations

During the COVID-19 outbreak the church still has utility bills to pay. Please do not forget to mail your offering to the church address (Buffalo United Methodist Church, 1000 30th Street NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402) or put the envelope in the locked church mail box by the meeting room door. Thank you for the donations we have received.

June Special Offering

Peace With Justice Sunday (June 7, Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost) enables the United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. Please consider contributing to this special offering along with your donation in support of Buffalo's operational budget. In May \$65.00 was collected for Native American Ministries.

If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected--those, precisely, who need the law's protection most!--and listens to their testimony.

~James Baldwin, No Name in the Street

Primary Election on June 2

The Primary Election voting sites have been reduced. Voters who normally cast their ballots at Buffalo will be voting at the Cedar Rapids Water Administration Building, 1111 Shaver Road NE.

Homemade Noodles

We still have homemade noodles for sale, \$2.00 per bag. The noodles are on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Place your money in the envelope by the box. Thanks.

Thanks

Thanks to Gary and Judy Hackney for checking the mailbox daily & keeping an eye on the church. . . . and thanks to Pastor Kathryn for her Sunday morning broadcast sermons and music. . . . and thanks for the cookie donations for the First Nation food boxes in May and thanks for those of you who donated \$150 to the First Nation food effort and thanks to Carla Lindball for rejuvenating the flower beds she cares for year round. . . . and thanks for everyone's prayers and patience.

2020 Iowa Annual Conference

This year's meeting in Des Moines has been cancelled. Instead the Annual Conference will be conducted as a series of Zoom Webinar meetings for clergy and lay delegates. There will be two Pre-Conference Town Hall Meetings occurring on Saturday, June 13 (9 a.m. to 12 p.m) and Saturday, June 27 (9 a.m. to 12 p.m.). These Town Hall meetings will enable delegates to discuss Conference finances and legislation and to practice the VVoter system prior to the legislative session. The 2020 Iowa Annual Conference Legislative Session will be held on Saturday, July 18 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

10 Lives, Interrupted

The *Washington Post* is publishing a series of profiles on ten Americans searching for survival and renewal during this spring's economic collapse. One of the ten people featured is Cara Briggs Farmer, the sculptor who designed and constructed the Hahn Memorial Sculpture installed last fall at Buffalo. The first entry on Cara (which includes photos shot in her Marion studio) can be read by visiting the paper's website or following the link on the digital version of this month's newsletter posted on Buffalo's website.

[\(http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/\)](http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/)

June 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 National Donut Day	6 D-Day Anniversary
7 Peace with Justice Sunday	8 World Oceans Day	9	10	11 Corpus Christi	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17 Admin Board Meeting (Tentative)	18 International Picnic Day	19	20 Summer Solstice
21 Father's Day	22	23	24 St. John the Baptist Feast Day	25	26	27
28 4 th Sunday after Pentecost	29	30	"Cleanse your hands, ye sinners." ~James 4:8			

June

1 – Noah Terpin

2 – Tom Fredericksen

4 – Tom Houlahan

Birthdays

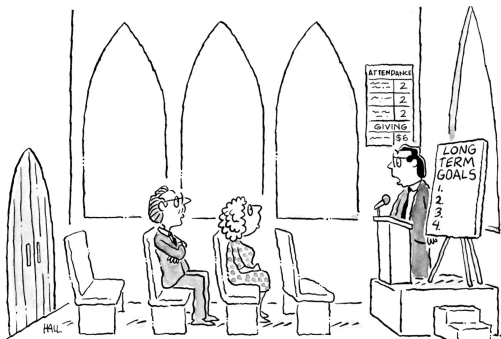
16 – Wayne Rayman

25 – David Seufferlein

Wedding Anniversaries:

27 – Tom & Kathy Houlahan

29 – Larry & Joyce Hartmann



"So, you think we should become a mega-church, Earl? Would you elaborate on that?"



"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

Candidates for Buffalo's Electronic Signboard

- Take care of each other, share toilet paper, and pray.
- Services cancelled. Live. Love. Laugh. Lysol.
- Wash hands, don't touch face. Hygenesis 24:7.
- What would Jesus do? He would love his neighbor and wash his hands.
- Jesus can wash away sins—but you've still got to wash your hands.
- Standing together, in solidarity, six feet apart.
- Church is who we are, not a place to go.
- 6 feet apart today is better than 6 feet under tomorrow.
- Jesus rode an ass into Jerusalem. Keep yours at home.
- Services cancelled, but God is making house calls.
- Wash your hands and say your prayers because Jesus and germs are everywhere.
- What's not cancelled: Nature, Puzzles, Chalk Drawing, Love, Hope.
- A time for war, a time for peace, a time to stay at home.

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The Buffalo Church Calendar

Until further notice, all church activities at Buffalo have been canceled or postponed. Information on the resumption of Sunday worship and other ministries will be posted on the website, distributed through email, and shouted from the nearest mountain top.

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"Honor your feelings of hopelessness. They're legit. But know we don't stay there. In the same space where despair sits in the soul, so does hope. I have found my faith has become healthier when I have accepted the wholeness of the human and divine experience. It's not joy or sorrow but joy and sorrow. It's not love or fear it's love and fear. But because of the Easter moment and message of Jesus' resurrection—love wins!"
~Pastor Patrick Gahagen, Journey of Faith Church in Baltimore, Maryland

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:7

