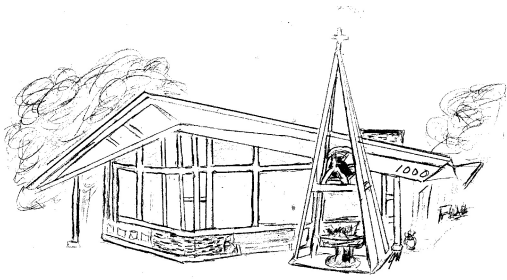


Buffalo United Methodist Church



June 2021

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



It's Gonna Take More Patience, Perseverance, and Determination

by Bishop Laurie Haller

Rev. Norman Neaves told a wonderful story years ago when he was the pastor at Church of the Servant in Oklahoma City. It was about a devout Jewish woman named Mrs. Feinstein, who was really struggling to make ends meet in her life. One day when she was in the synagogue, she prayed to God and said, "Lord, you know how poor I am and how very much I need money. And you also know how faithful I am and how I come here every day to pray to you. So, Lord, I want to ask you a favor. I want you to help me win the lottery." But when Mrs. Feinstein got through praying, there was nothing at all from the Lord – just dead silence.

The next day Mrs. Feinstein came back to the synagogue and prayed again. "Now, Lord," she said, "I'm serious. I need help winning the lottery, for I am poor and desperately need money. Why haven't you helped me yet?" But, again, the heavens were silent, and there was no reply from the Lord.

So, Mrs. Feinstein went back to the synagogue a third day, and this time she was really angry. "Lord, I'm sick and tired of this! I've been faithful to you! I've come here and prayed every day! And what has it gotten me? Nothing! Absolutely nothing! Now, why haven't you answered my prayer and helped me win the lottery?"

All of a sudden, the heavens shook, the synagogue trembled on its foundation, and bolts of lightning shot across the sky. And the Lord spoke and said, "Please give me a break, Mrs. Feinstein. At least go out and buy a lottery ticket."

I don't share this story to assure you that God approves of the lottery. Rather, I tell it because it points

out the fact that in order for God to work in our lives, we must meet God half-way. . . .

One day Jesus told a parable about the importance of never giving up and about the need to pray continuously and not be discouraged. He said,

In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking, "Give me justice in this case against my adversary." For a while he refused but finally said to himself, I don't fear God or respect people, but I will give this widow justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise, there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me. The Lord said, Listen to what the unjust judge says. "Won't God provide justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will give them justice quickly. But when the Human One comes, will he find faithfulness on earth?" (Luke 18:2-8)

As Christians under construction, we don't just stand around and wait for the Lord to do something to us. We have to respond to God's initiative in our lives. That response is faith, which in turn shows itself in good works. And it's a life-long process. In the United Methodist tradition, the goal of the Christian life is sanctification, to be made holy after the pattern of Christ. . . .

Before the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright made a final contract with a client, he gave them four pieces of advice about how contracting and construction work would disrupt their lives. He said, "One - the project will take longer than you planned. Two - it will cost more than you figured. Three - it will be messier

than you ever imagined. And four - it will take more patience, perseverance, and determination to get through it than you ever dreamed."

Just as it almost always takes longer than expected to complete a building, so the Christian life is a journey that lasts our whole life. We don't have it made the day we decide to give our life to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. That's not the end - it's the first step, the beginning of a long and beautiful and often difficult journey, with ups and downs and peaks and valleys.

But the Christian life also costs more than expected, just as a new building often has numerous add-ons. The cost of Christian discipleship involves giving up everything to follow Jesus. It could mean forsaking money, job, family, or friends. If we're United Methodist, it may mean receiving a new pastor. Or, if we're clergy, it may mean being appointed to another church before we're ready to move.

Third, the Christian life is messy. As Christians under construction, we know that we cannot avoid all the pain and suffering of this world. But if we build our lives on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ, we can withstand any trials and temptations by holding on to the rock.

Frank Lloyd Wright's last bit of advice is that construction is going to take more patience, perseverance, and determination to get through it than we ever dreamed. That advice is an excellent description of our Christian journey. Over the years, I've learned how contractors are really at the mercy of their sub-contractors. Contractors hire other people to do the concrete, electrical, plumbing, heating work, and so on. The contractor has a master schedule of when everything has to be done, but each step in the process of building is contingent upon the finishing of a previous task. . . .

A well-known African American spiritual that arose during the time of slavery in the southern U.S. asks a very timely question: "Who'll be a witness for my Lord?" The Christian life is a journey, and it will take more patience, perseverance, and determination than we could ever imagine. God chooses each one of us to be God's precious children. Now it's up to us to respond. Each one of us is meant to be a witness for our Lord. Here I am, Lord. Send me!

[The complete essay is available as the May 3, 2021 posting to the Bishop's blog, *Leading from the Heart.*]

Administrative Board Meeting

Issues addressed at the May 19 Board meeting included the following:

- In her Trustees' report, Marlene reported that the air conditioner will be serviced on June 25.
- To date, no new pastor has been appointed to fill the Buffalo position beginning July 1. The Pastor/Parish Committee is responsible for assuring the congregation has someone to lead Sunday morning worship services until a new pastor is appointed.
- The Board members agreed that COVID-19 guidelines should remain in place. Free face masks will continue to be available for people attending worship services and the Rummage Sale in June.
- The Board authorized the purchase of souvenir pens as part of the church's 145th birthday celebration.
- The Board examined a proposed Worship Service Response Form but decided to wait for input from the new pastor before starting to use this or some other feedback device.
- A small research project conducted by the Board's chair revealed that in the worship center pews we have the following editions/translations of the Bible: 11 New Revised Standard Version, 17 Revised Standard Version, 2 Common English, 1 Oxford Annotated, 1 New International, 1 King James, and 1 Children's edition of the NRSV. Although the Board members felt it would be beneficial for the congregation to have one common edition that can be used during worship services, it was decided to postpone a purchase decision until after a new pastor is appointed. Old copies we no longer need can be donated to the UMW Ingathering in the fall.
- It appears the church will soon have a "new" computer (with a disk drive and Windows) enabling us to update the church's electronic sign.
- The Board approved changing the dates for the Rummage Sale to Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12. The new dates correspond with the nearby Staub Court garage sales.
- The Board authorized Hep Hentrich to update the worship center's PA system so everything will be up to code and controlled by a single switch.
- A new church directory continues to be on hold.
- Pastor Kathryn announced that the congregation will celebrate communion on the last Sunday in June, the final Sunday of her Buffalo appointment.

June 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: http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/		1	2	3	4 Iowa Annual Conference on Zoom	5 Iowa Annual Conference on Zoom
6 8:45 am Worship Service Rummage Sale Prep (12:30 am)	7	8	9 Church Cleaning (9:00 am)	10	11 Rummage Sale (8:00 am - 4:00 pm)	12 Rummage Sale (8:00 am - 1:00 pm)
13 8:45 am Worship Service	14 Flag Day	15	16 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 am)	17	18	19 Juneteenth The last day of spring
20 8:45 am Worship Service Father's Day	21 The second day of summer	22	23	24	25 The Battle at Little Bighorn (1876)	26
27 8:45 am Worship Service Communion	28	29	30	Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" - Isaiah 6:8		

June Birthdays: 1 - Noah Terpin 2 - Tom Fredericksen 4 - Tom Houlahan
16 - Wayne Rayman 25 - David Seufferlein

Wedding Anniversaries: 27 - Tom & Kathy Houlahan 29 - Larry & Joyce Hartmann

June Rummage Sale

The word "rummage" is related to the Dutch word "ruim" (i.e., a room). The word originally referred to the arranging of items such as casks in the hold of a ship, giving rise to a verb for making a search in a ship—comparable to when we rummage around in a closet to find items for a rummage sale.

Buffalo's 2021 Rummage Sale will be Friday, June 11, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday, June 12, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will set up the sale on Sunday, June 6, beginning at 12:30 pm. We will have masks available for the public, as needed. Please help if you can.

Church Cleaning

In his sermons John Wesley often stressed the importance of cleanliness, and he may have been the originator of the phrase "cleanliness is next to godliness." The admonition

has a long history, evident in worship rituals in the book of Leviticus. If you wish to gain a closer relationship with godliness, please join us for our monthly church cleaning rituals at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9.

A Salmagundi of Appreciation, Suggestions, and Information

- Thanks to Gary and Judy for purchasing a paper towel dispenser for the handicap accessible bathroom.
- The Little Library is visited frequently and donations of books, especially children's books, are most welcome.
- If you are interested in RADA cutlery, contact Barb Crawford or Marlene Himes to find out what is still available.
- United Methodist Women will celebrate a lunch for our secret pals later in the summer.

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). An outdoor event in front of the Hahn Memorial Sculpture. After a dedication of the memorial, Margie Marrs will lead the singing and Pastor Kathryn will conduct an old-time camp meeting. The one-hour service will be followed by delicious refreshments.
- Sunday Morning Worship Service (10:30 am). Please invite relatives, friends, and neighbors to join us.
- 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 music, drumming, dancing, a clown, many balloons, more Buffalo cookies, a fire truck, special guests, a group photo, and so much more.
- Dedication of the Buffalo Labyrinth and memorials (2:00-2:30 pm). This will be a special service at the Labyrinth, celebrating the lives and contributions of past members and friends of the Buffalo congregation.

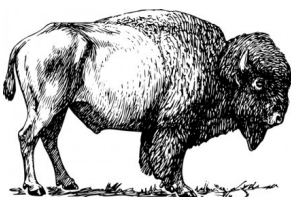
We need volunteers. Listed below are a few jobs still available. If you wish to help with one or more tasks, please enter your name on the sign-up sheet available in the back of the worship center or contact Bob Marrs (email: rmarrs@coe.edu; home phone: 319-362-9494).

- Help distribute flyers/brochures, inviting Buffalo's neighbors to the celebration.
- Communicate with families to be honored at the Sunday afternoon memorial service.
- Help with advertising.
- Help with mailing of post cards and other phone or email communications.
- Arrange for photographer(s) to cover Sat/Sun events.
- 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 Saturday evening hymn sing (hand out programs, set up sound system, etc).
- Help with Sunday afternoon memorial service.
- Help clean up after Saturday and/or Sunday events.
- Offer to assist with a task not identified on this list

Buffalo United Methodist Church

1000 30th St NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Since 1876