

Buffalo United Methodist Church

June 2023

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Pastor Carol's Desk

My rose bushes have many buds on them, and it is so exciting when they are blooming. Rose bushes have always been my favorite. There is something peaceful about rose bushes. They like water and sun. They don't ask for much--just a little drink now and then. And maybe it would be good if we were like the rose bushes, not asking for a whole lot.

Of course, we should seek God's help when we are facing difficult times. But we should remember that walking with God is a two-way street. Not only do we ask for help, but we should be willing to help God in any way that we can.

God has been good to us and helps us in our everyday lives. God wakes us up each morning, giving us the sun each day to brighten our spirits. Most of all, God loves us for who we are. God has created us all to think differently and be different. We should never forget that God does not make mistakes. We are all blessed.

*Blessings,
Pastor Carol*



June Neighborhood Potluck Cancelled

Since we will be using the Fellowship Hall for the annual Rummage Sale on June 8 and 9, this month's potluck will be replaced with the hotdog lunch on that Thursday and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30. The meal is free, but donations are appreciated. Eating your lunch at Buffalo will also be a great opportunity to do some bargain shopping.

Special Offering for June

June 4 is Peace with Justice Sunday. This "Noisy Offering" supports the General Board and Iowa Conference in their peace and justice initiatives. On this special Sunday United Methodists renew their commitment to seeking peaceful solutions, creating and supporting peace-related ministries in their conference, and learning about peaceful, just efforts around the world. Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them.

Half of the funds collected on this Special Sunday remain in the Annual Conference to strengthen social justice ministries within Iowa. The other half of the donations collected fund national and international peacemaking ministries and grants. We achieve peace with justice efforts by working with the World Council of Churches, interfaith and ecumenical bodies, and secular organizations for social-justice policies and programs that seek the wholeness of shalom for all of God's people.

May's Golden Cross collection was \$99.05.

United Women in Faith

Although we are taking the summer off, we do have a special event on Thursday, June 15. We will celebrate our Secret Pals by hosting a lunch at 12 noon. If you have a secret pal, please bring a "secret pal revealing card" with your name inside. UMW will provide a gift to put inside the card for each Secret Pal.

God couldn't be everywhere, so He invented Dads to handle leaky pipes and weird noises. —Dan Taylor

Hidden Joys: A Sonnet for the Visitation

The English poet Malcolm Guite maintains a website where he periodically posts poems dealing with different celebrations on the Christian calendar. Copied below is Guite's sonnet "Hidden Joys" and his brief commentary introducing the poem.

The feast of the Visitation usually falls on the 31st of May. It celebrates the lovely moment in Luke's Gospel (1:41-56) when Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was also, against all expectations, bearing a child, the child who would be John the Baptist. Luke tells us that the Holy Spirit came upon them, and that the babe in Elizabeth's womb 'leaped for joy' when he heard Mary's voice, and it is even as the older woman blesses the younger, that Mary gives voice to the Magnificat, the most beautiful and revolutionary hymn in the world. There is much for the modern world to ponder in this tale of God's blessing and prophecy on and from the margins. . . . This sonnet is drawn from my collection Sounding the Seasons, published by Canterbury Press.

Here is a meeting made of hidden joys
Of lightnings cloistered in a narrow place
From quiet hearts the sudden flame of praise
And in the womb the quickening kick of grace.
Two women on the very edge of things
Unnoticed and unknown to men of power
But in their flesh the hidden Spirit sings
And in their lives the buds of blessing flower.
And Mary stands with all we call 'too young',
Elizabeth with all called 'past their prime'
They sing today for all the great unsung
Women who turned eternity to time
Favoured of heaven, outcast on the earth
Prophets who bring the best in us to birth.



Buffalo Vegetable Garden

In cooperation with Feed Iowa First, Buffalo has arranged for a local family to use Buffalo's Vegetable and Herb Garden for producing their own food. The mother of the family (with four daughters) is Kasoki Kisonia and goes by the name of Patience. She is from Kenya, and we will see some vegetables in the garden we would not encounter in most Midwest gardens.

Compost Bins

The secret to good gardens is good garden soil. The secret to good garden soil is fresh and lovely compost. We are fortunate that we have five compost containers at Buffalo. Four of them are located on the cement slab west of the shed and the fifth is at the back of the property, west of the Labyrinth.

Composting is a miraculous process that results in humus, an ideal ingredient for nourishing our soil. If you don't have a compost bin at home, please consider donating to Buffalo's compost piles. Here is a list of ideal candidates for composting:

The Greens

- Fruit & vegetable peels
- Citrus & melon rinds
- Coffee grounds & tea leaves
- Old vegetables no longer suitable for eating
- Houseplant trimmings
- Weeds (e.g., dandelions & creeping Charlie) before they produce seeds
- Fresh leaves & grass clippings
- Deadheads from flowers
- Cooked plain rice & plain pasta
- Stale bread
- Eggshells

The Browns. These are carbon-rich materials that add aeration to the pile and structure to your compost. Since they break down more slowly, it's a good idea to chop them up fairly small.

- Shredded newspaper & office/school papers
- Torn up plain corrugated cardboard boxes
- Straw & pine needles
- Fall leaves (preferably chopped up by a mower)
- Used paper coffee filters
- Sawdust from untreated wood
- Shredded brown paper lunch & shopping bags

Buffalo's Labyrinth

Because of the long dry spell in May, we have been delayed in making some upgrades to the Labyrinth's grasses and native flowers, but the Labyrinth path is in place, the tulip tree in the center of the Labyrinth is covered with new leaves (their shape resembling a tulip flower—thus the name "tulip tree"), and the three memorial benches are ready and waiting for any visitors. This is an ideal space for anyone seeking a few moments of peaceful reflection, communion with the natural world, and prayer.

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Good dads forgive your mistakes. Great dads help you hide them from mom. ~Bill Gray</i></p>				1	2 Iowa UMC Annual Conference	3 Iowa UMC Annual Conference
4 Worship Service (9:00 am) Trinity Sunday	5	6 Bible Study (9:00 am)	7	8 Rummage Sale (8:00 am - 4:00 pm) Noon Lunch	9 Rummage Sale (8:00 am - 1:00 pm) Noon Lunch	10 A day of rest after two days of Rummage Sale.
11 Worship Service & Communion (9:00 am)	12	13 Bible Study (9:00 am)	14 Church Cleaning (9:00 am)	15 United Women of Faith: Secret Pals Luncheon (12:00 noon)	16	17
18 Worship Service (9:00 am) Father's Day	19 Juneteenth	20 Bible Study (9:00 am)	21 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.) Summer Solstice	22	23	24
25 Worship Service (9:00 am)	26	27 Bible Study (9:00 am)	28	29	30	Note: July 2 Worship Service will be in Sinclair Auditorium at Coe College.

June Birthdays: 1 - Noah Terpin
16 - Wayne Rayman

2 - Tom Fredericksen
25 - David Seufferlein

4 - Tom Houlahan

June Anniversaries: 27 - Tom & Kathy Houlahan

29 - Larry & Joyce Hartmann

Heavenly Recipes

This note is a brief reminder that Buffalo's website has a page entitled "Heavenly Recipes" that includes favorite recipes submitted by members of the congregation. If you have recipe you would like to share, please send the recipe and information on its history to Bob Marrs (rmarrs@coe.edu).

Church Cleaning

At 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 14, all able-bodied members of the congregation are encouraged to help with our end-of-spring cleaning day. The more helpers we have, the sooner we're done.

UMC Split over LGBTQ Issues:

Some Worshippers Switching Congregations

The United Methodist Church is certainly not united when it comes to dealing with the issues of human sexuality and gender identity. It appears that at least 15% of the congregations in the U.S. are either becoming independent or choosing to join another denomination. The latest Bison Blog posting to Buffalo's website has an United Methodist News Daily Digest article by Peter Smith and Holly Meyer that discusses some aspects of this new denominational landscape.

Buffalo Calendar

June 4: Trinity Sunday

June 6: Continuation of Bible Study. The sessions will be led by Pastor Carol, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each Tuesday

June 8 & 9: Rummage Sale (see right-side column for further information)

June 11: Communion Sunday

June 14: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)

June 15: United Women of Faith: Secret Pals Luncheon (12:00 noon)

June 21: Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)

July 2: Sunday Morning Worship Service at Coe College

August 19 (Saturday): Buffalo Family Function

October 28 (Saturday): Fall Bazaar

Hy-Vee Receipts

We continue to collect Hy-Vee receipts for Garfield Elementary School. There is a large glass jar in the back of the sanctuary for the receipts.

*When does a joke become a dad joke?
When the punch line is apparent!*

A Jumble Sale (Great Britain)

Bring and Buy Sale (Australia)

Rummage Sale (U.S and Canada)

Regardless of the country or preferred title, these sales typically involve the sale of second-hand goods by an institution (such as a church) as a fund raising or charitable endeavor. Buffalo's Rummage Sale is scheduled for two days:

Thursday, June 8: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday, June 9: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Friday, everything will be at half price.

We are still accepting donations—though we request people do not donate electronic or bulky items. If you can volunteer to help during the event, or donate food for the lunches (e.g., hot dogs, buns, finger-size veggies, cookies), please contact Barb Crawford. We will also be selling donated baked goods. Monetary donations to cover our expenses are also most welcome.

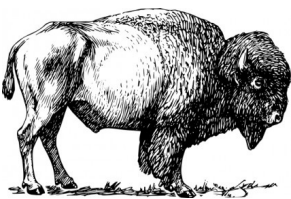
Church Flowers

Thanks Kim Griffith and Carla Lindball for the colorful flowers in planters outside the church.

Buffalo United Methodist Church

1000 30th St NE

Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Since 1876

Church Website: <http://buffalounitedmethodist.weebly.com/>