

Buffalo United Methodist Church

June 2018

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



A Pastoral Letter

by Bishop Laurie Haller

Once again, our hearts are broken by the violence at a high school in Santa Fe, Texas, this morning, where ten people were killed and another ten were wounded. In the midst of unspeakable horror, we lament along with the psalmist.

I cry out to you from the depths, Lord
my Lord, listen to my voice!
Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy!
If you kept track of sins, Lord,
my Lord, who would stand a chance?
But forgiveness is with you;
that's why you are honored.
I hope, Lord.
My whole being hopes,
and I wait for God's promise.
My whole being waits for my Lord,
more than the night watch waits for morning;
yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!
Israel, wait for the Lord!
Because faithful love is with the Lord;
because great redemption is with our God!
He is the one who will redeem Israel
from all its sin. (Psalm 130)

O, Lord, comfort your people during this tragic time. Surround those who grieve with the love and grace that you show to us through Jesus Christ. May each one of us become the embodiment of your peace and hope for our broken world. Amen.

~Bishop Laurie Haller
May 18, 2018

United Methodist Women

On Friday, July 20, we will journey to the New Melleray Abbey for a tour and lunch at the Abbey. Please let Sheryl Arnett know if you plan to attend.

Special Offering in 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. Half of the offering stays in Iowa for Iowa Conference justice ministries.

Annual Rummage Sale

While doing your spring cleaning, set aside underutilized, unwanted, underappreciated items for the sale on Thursday, June 14 (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) and Friday, June 15 (8:00 am to 1:00 pm). No televisions, computers, or bulky items.

We plan to serve a hot dog lunch both days for a donation. Donations of baked goods will be sold at the sale and as part of the daily lunch. Sale items can be brought to the Meeting Room after the primary election on June 5.

Five Conversations on the Parables of Jesus

For five Thursdays in the months of June and July, everyone is invited to gather at Buffalo for morning refreshments (bagels, coffee cake, fruit, several drink options) and an opportunity to share our thoughts--including questions and uncertainties--on the parables of Jesus. These informal sessions will begin at 9:30 am and conclude by 11:00. The first session on June 7 will focus on three parables in Luke (15:4-32): a lost sheep, a lost coin, and two lost sons. The second conversation on June 28 will discuss the Good Samaritan, another parable found in Luke (10:25-37). In these sessions we will try to gain some insights into the remarkable power of these deceptively simple parables, created by a master story-teller.

Administrative Board

Report on May 16, 2018 Meeting

- Termite Inspection: we passed; no signs of any Wesleyan termites.
- Exterior painting on the church building should be completed by the end of June.
- Gary arranged for large limbs of ash tree to be cut down; he finished the job, cut up the wood, and enabled many people to get free firewood.
- Two gutter companies submitted bids for installation of new gutters and down spouts on east side of the church. The Board postponed a decision until next meeting.
- Sean of Sustainable Landscapes sent an email indicating the asphalt work on the driveway would be completed in the next two weeks. Sean also confirmed that the plants which did not survive the winter in the bioretention cells would be replaced.
- Margie's Alexander Technique class was well attended, and several members of the congregation are now 1" taller.
- Roll-up blinds have been installed in middle room, paid for by the Memorial Fund.
- No Smoking signs have been installed.
- Pastor Kathryn said the conference would like all congregations to be involved in the Wildly Important Goal (WIG) program.
- Bob will be leading a Bible Study on the parables of Jesus on Thursday mornings in June and July.
- Pastor Kathryn said that Trinity UMC has a 15' Cross they would like to move. The Board members indicated a willingness to find an appropriate location at Buffalo.

Primary Election on June 5

Buffalo will serve as a voting location for the June 5 primary. We will set up a table for baked items during the election hours. This is an easy way to make money for church projects. Thanks for your donations of cookies, bars, breads, etc.

Worship Service Scripture Readings June – July – August

This summer I am going to try something different: I'm going to use the Lectionary readings for June, July, and August. In addition to listing them here so that you can do some preparatory reading, I will have a clipboard at the back of the sanctuary for you to sign up to study the Scriptures with me. You don't have to be a genius Biblical scholar to do this (believe me when I say that I'm not one, either). I would just like someone different each week to set aside time on Sunday (afternoon), Monday, or Tuesday to meet with me to talk about what the Scriptures for this week say to us. One hour maximum, I guarantee, at your convenience.

One of the basic spiritual disciplines is living in the Scriptures, learning more and finding new ways to use them in our everyday life. This task does NOT belong just to me! It is an effort for all of us. Please sign up and help in this preparation for worship.

The Lectionary is a three year cycle of readings, designed to hit many of the high points in the Bible. It explores certain themes and focuses on different books of the Bible. There is always one from the Old Testament, a Psalm, an Epistle reading (from the various letters written to the early churches), and a gospel selection (from the historical books that tell about Jesus Christ and his earthly ministry). I won't always know which of the four readings I will choose to preach on ahead of time. If you like, I would be glad to have you read the chosen Scripture aloud during Sunday service, but that is purely voluntary. I know some people are seriously unexcited about being up front!

Thanks for your help--I know I can count on you all! I know it looks like an enormous amount of reading when you see it all together, but it's really not bad if you take it week by week!

~Pastor Kathryn

Date	OT	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
June 3	1 Samuel 3: 1-20	139	2 Cor 4:5-12	Mark 2:23-3:6

1st Samuel is the transition time between the great Judges who ruled Israel and the first two kings, Saul and David. Faithfulness to God=good; disobedience=disaster. 2nd

Corinthians was written after some members of the church attacked Paul's teachings, but Paul clearly longs for reconciliation with them. Mark's emphasis is on what Jesus did, rather than what he taught or said.

Date	OT	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
June 10	1 Sam. 8:4-20/11:14-15	138	2 Cor. 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
June 17	1Sam. 15:34-16:13	20 or 72	2 Cor. 5:6-10,14-17	Mark 4:26-34
June 24	1 Sam. 17:1-49	9	2 Cor. 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
July 1	2 Sam. 1:1,17-27	130	2 Cor. 8:7-15	Mark. 5:21-43
				2nd Samuel describes the reign of King David, a deeply flawed man but a gifted leader. David is "God's man" and readily accepts God's punishments when he screws up.
July 8	2 Sam. 5:1-5,9-10	48	2 Cor. 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13
July 15	2Sam. 6:1-5,12-19	24	Eph. 1:3-15	Mark 6:14-29
				Ephesians is concerned with God's plan to bring the world together with Christ as the leader. It also talks about ways for Christians to live in unity.
July 22	2 Sam. 7:1-14	89	Eph. 3:14-21	Mark 6:30-34,53-56
July 29	2 Sam. 11:1-15	14	Eph. 3:14-21	John 6:1-21
				John tells the story of Jesus as the Word of God, emphasizing the gift of eternal life.
Aug. 5	2 Sam. 11:26-12:13	51	Eph. 4:1-16	John 6:24-35
Aug. 12	2 Sam. 18:5-33	130	Eph. 4:25-5:2	John 6:35-51
Aug. 19	1 Kings 2:10-3:14	111	Eph. 5:15-20	John 6:51-58
				1st Kings details the succession of King Solomon to the throne, the building of the Temple, and the division of the country into the North and South kingdoms. More history, in other words.
Aug. 26	1 Kings 8:22-30,41-43	84	Eph. 6:10-20	John 6:56-59

Excerpts from a Pastoral Letter (May 5, 2018) by Bishop Laurie Haller

Dear Laity and Clergy in the Iowa Annual Conference,

Grace and peace! I am writing to you with an update from the Council of Bishops around the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. . . . As many of you know, the 2016 General Conference voted to form a special Commission to help us discern a way forward in The United Methodist Church around human sexuality. The 32-member Commission is concluding its work and shared several possible plans with the Council of Bishops this past week at our meeting in Chicago.

The role of the Council of Bishops has been to strategically help the General Conference do its work. The vision of both the Council and the Commission has been to “design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible.”

The three plans presented by the Commission to the Council of Bishops are:

- The Traditionalist Plan, which would retain the current disciplinary language around homosexuality and provide accountability.
- The One Church Plan, which would allow churches to contextualize language and practice around sexuality in support of witness and mission. The current prohibitive language in the Discipline around same-sex marriage and the ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals would be removed. Local churches could decide whether or not to host same-sex weddings, and clergy could choose whether or not to officiate at same-sex weddings. Central Conferences in other parts of the world would continue to be able to adapt the Book of Discipline to their context.
- The Connectional Conference Plan, where local churches and clergy could decide to join traditional, centrist, or progressive “connectional conferences” that would be formed according to theological conviction.

The motion that was approved on May 4 by the Council of Bishops states that the Council of Bishops will submit a report to the 2019 called General Conference that includes:

- All three plans (Traditionalist, the One Church Plan and the Connectional Conference Plan)
- The Council’s Recommendation of the One Church Plan
- A historical narrative of the Council’s discernment process regarding all three plans

. . . . The Council of Bishops strongly supported the One Church Plan to be presented to the special called General Conference in St. Louis in February 2019. The One Church Plan provides a generosity of spirit and unity that can model new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions and maximizes our mission to be a global and

multicultural church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Council of Bishops is recommending the One Church Plan as the best way forward. However, all three plans reflect the values of our global church and will be included in the full report of the Council of Bishops that will be released in early July.

I’d like to share a few observations about the process. As shepherds of the entire church, the Council of Bishops seeks to live and lead the church out of convicted humility. We recognize that we are not of one mind around human sexuality, but it is possible for us to be of one heart as we reach out to a hurting world with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. At the same time as we honestly admit our differing convictions, we also repent of the ways in which we reject those who do not think like us. We ask God for forgiveness when we would rather win an argument than travel the Wesleyan way together with those whose views differ from ours. We invite all United Methodists to pray, serve, and relate to one another with convicted humility as well.

I also recognize the anxiety that is present in the Iowa Annual Conference as well as The United Methodist Church as a whole around the future of our denomination. Our differing beliefs around human sexuality have led to a sense of brokenness across the church, in the Council of Bishops, and among those who find themselves outside one or all of the plans. My prayer is that, in the midst of various viewpoints, we can remain focused on our call to be difference makers in our communities and around the world. May we seek to have hearts of peace that celebrate the strength of our diversity as United Methodists, honor the integrity of others who may not think like us and desire to learn from rather than oppose one another.

Finally, I invite you to continue to be God’s people and do God’s work in the world. There are millions of people across the globe who are yearning to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and are just waiting for you and me to offer them words of grace, peace, and hope. “We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in Lord. And we pray that all unity may one day be restored. They will know we are Christians by our love.”

. . . . I will continue to meet periodically with our General Conference delegation, which will be taking up this work on behalf of the Iowa Annual Conference and the whole church. I have also made a commitment to travel throughout the conference again in the fall to lead another set of gatherings around the proposals that will be voted upon at the 2019 called General Conference. In addition, there will be a “roundtable dialogue” at our Iowa Annual Conference on Sunday, June 10, from 2:30–3:30 p.m. in Hyvee Hall. Bishop Bruce Ough, immediate past president of the Council of Bishops, members of the General Conference delegation, and I will be participating, and the dialogue will be live-streamed.

Please continue to regularly lift up in prayer the Commission, the Council of Bishops, and our General Conference delegates. May God’s grace surround us with peace and hope as we continue to claim our name as God’s beloved children and make a difference wherever God calls us.

June 2018

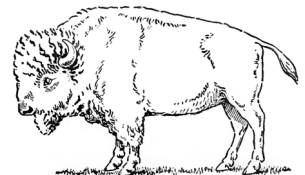
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>“We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in Lord. And we pray that all unity may one day be restored. They will know we are Christians by our love.”</p>					1	2
3 8:45 am: Worship Service	4	5 Voting at Buffalo (Bake Sale)	6	7 9:30 am: Conversation on Parables of Jesus	8	9
10 8:45 am: Worship Service (led by UMW)	11 9:00 am: Church Cleaning	12	13	14 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: Rummage Sale & Luncheon	15 8:00 am - 1:00 pm: Rummage Sale & Luncheon	16
17 Father's Day 8:45 am: Worship Service	18	19	20 4:00 pm: Administrative Board Meeting	21 First Day of Summer 11:30 am: Secret Pal Lunch	22	23
24 8:45 am: Worship Service	25	26	27	28 9:30 am: Conversation on Parables of Jesus	29	30

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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



Buffalo UMC June Events

June 5: Primary Election Day, polls open from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm. Don't forget to donate items for our Bake Sale.

June 7: First "Conversation on the Parables", 9:30 am

June 10: Pastor Kathryn & Bob Marris will be attending the Annual Conference; UMW will be responsible for the Sunday Worship Service

June 11: Church cleaning, 9:00 am

June 14 & 15: Annual Rummage Sale with Lunch each day. Note: because of the sale, there will be no Golden Age Potluck in June.

June 17: Father's Day

June 20: Administrative Board Meeting, 4:00 pm

June 21: Secret Pal Revealing Lunch, 11:30 am

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

THANKS...

- . . . to Gloria Clinton for leading the service on Sunday, May 27.
- . . . to Gary & Judy Hackney & their assistants for cutting down the trees around the shed, cleaning up hundreds of branches, filling the green yardies, and providing free firewood to many new church friends.
- . . . to Gary Hackney for fixing a water faucet.
- . . . to Bob Marris for preparing the vegetable and herb garden and spreading fresh wood mulch all over the church property.
- . . . to Carla Lindball for tending the plants around the electric sign and the stone wall.
- . . . to Chris Gochenouer for working so diligently behind the scenes, helping with so many church projects, too numerous to mention.

Thanks to everyone who is part of our church family.

