



Buffalo United Methodist

March 2019

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



The Waiting Time

by Bishop Laurie Haller

It's waiting time in The United Methodist Church. Only one more week until General Conference 2019. I sense the tension, the increasing anxiety, the wondering. What will happen to The United Methodist Church? What will happen to my local church? How will God show up? Will the Holy Spirit move among us?

Sometimes I think we spend most of our life waiting. Waiting for our child to take his/her first steps. Waiting for school to start again after the summer. Waiting as a kid for our birthday to come. Waiting for our first appointment as a local church pastor. Waiting for medical test results. Waiting in airport security lines.

Waiting is a natural part of life. Whenever I think of waiting, I remember the times that I was pregnant. I had already settled into the waiting time when one of my pregnancies ended in a miscarriage. The other three pregnancies went full-term, and I still remember what the last month was like. I was huge, extremely uncomfortable, and felt like I was waddling rather than walking. I never knew whether I was going to have a girl or a boy, but I was always keenly aware that I was about to give birth to something new and that it would change my life forever.

Waiting is also a pattern in the Bible. Adam waits for Eve (Genesis 2). Noah waits for the flood to recede. Abraham waits for a son. Jacob waits to marry Rachel. Hannah waits for Samuel. The Israelites wait for deliverance. God's people wait for a Messiah.

"But when the fulfillment of the time came, God sent his Son." (Galatians 4:4) Jesus waits to begin his public ministry. We know that Good Friday leads to the Holy Saturday of waiting, which leads to the

fullness of resurrection. The disciples wait for the Holy Spirit to be unleashed in Jerusalem.

The waiting time is often called liminal time. The word "liminal" comes from the Latin root, *limen*, which means "threshold." The liminal space is that "crossing over" space, the "in between" time when we leave behind something old and anticipate something new. It's a time of transition, when we're on the move but not quite there yet.

I have always experienced liminal space as a rich time of anticipation and expectation as well as hesitation and ambiguity. When we wait, we often imagine our greatest hopes but at the same time admit our greatest fears. Liminal time can also be a space where we begin to let go so that something new can emerge. I remember when I was finishing my sixth year as a district superintendent and entered into the limbo of waiting for a new appointment. I knew in my mind that I had to leave the old behind and sit patiently in the waiting space, but my heart was often unsettled. During the months that I spent in liminal time, I learned that completely surrendering my life and ministry to God was the only way to be healthy and whole. . . .

As delegates discern in community which plan best expresses our Wesleyan passion for sharing Christ's love and forming disciples of Jesus who go out into the world and make a difference, how will God speak to us in this liminal space? Just as a caterpillar emerges from the chrysalis, what will emerge from the "crazy time" of waiting? Can we focus intently on seeking God's will at the same time as we acknowledge that love of God and neighbor lie at the heart of United Methodism?

Taizé Service
Thursday Evening
March 28, 7:00 pm

Buffalo's Taizé prayer service is patterned after the worship in the ecumenical community of Taizé in France. The scripture readings, the repetitive singing of simple melodies, the moments of reflective silence—all are designed to help us enter a time of peace and contemplation, to experience in our community the comforting love of God.

Our co-sponsor for this event is the Chaplain's Office at Coe College. Participating in the service will be students, faculty, and staff from Coe, as well as representatives from several other churches, including members of Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Catholic congregations. If you are planning to attend, please consider inviting one or more friends or neighbors to join us for this special Lenten-season service.

United Methodist Women

Please join us at 9:30 am on Thursday, March 21 in Buffalo's Meeting Room. After a short business meeting, the program will be provided by Rose White.

Neighborhood Potluck

Join us for the monthly potluck at 11:30 am on Thursday, March 14. There is always plenty to eat and lots of good conversation. Place settings and beverages are provided.

A Big Thank You

Tom Ferguson has been clearing the church sidewalks on the snowy days. Thanks from all of us who may not always walk as well as we used to.

From the Poem "For Lent, 1966"

~by Madeleine L'Engle

It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 1, 2019

9:00 a.m. Coffee and Rolls (Free will offering)

9:30 a.m. Worship

This year's program, written by the women of Slovenia, is entitled "Come--Everything is Ready." We are asked to consider the following questions:

- How can we widen our circle and expand our communities?
- Who isn't at our table yet?
- Who have we excluded from our fellowship?

The table is ready and open to everyone. Come, there is a place for you.

Child care is available.

Please call 319-389-3187 to reserve a space.

Special Offering in March

One Great Hour of Sharing will be the beneficiary of the March "Noisy Offering." Our contributions will enable the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through world-wide ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace.

Message from Bishop Haller

The 2019 Special Called General Conference will take place in St. Louis on February 23-26. This Special Session has been called by the Council of Bishops to find a way forward beyond the impasse around LGBTQ identity, interpretation of scripture, and the unity of the church. The General Conference is the highest legislative body in the church and the only group that can decide church law and speak officially for the global denomination. For those wishing to follow the General Conference proceedings, live-streaming is available on the Iowa Annual Conference website gc2019.iaumc.org.



Pastor Kathryn's Office Hours
Every Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Phone: 319-389-3187

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2019</h1>					1 UMW Hosting World Day of Prayer (9-11 am)	2 Bertram Pancake Breakfast (8-11 am)
3 8:45 am: Worship Service	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday First Day of Lent	7	8 8:00 am: Popping corn at Garfield	9
10 8:45 am: Worship Service	11 9:00 am: Clean Church	12	13	14 11:30 am: Neighborhood Potluck	15	16
17 8:45 am: Worship Service	18	19	20 4:00 pm: Admin. Board Meeting	21 9:30 am: UMW	22	23
24 8:45 am: Worship Service	25	26	27	28 7:00 pm: Taizé Service	29	30
31 8:45 am: Worship Service	<p style="text-align: center;">Mark Twain's Advice Concerning the Ten Commandments</p> <p>A hypocritical businessman, whose fortune had been the misfortune of many others, told Mark Twain piously, "Before I die I intend to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I want to climb to the top of Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud." "I have a better idea," suggested Twain. "Why don't you stay right at home in Boston and keep them?"</p>					

March Birthdays

11 – James Maish
17 – Pastor Jenny Seylar
20 - Pastor Kathryn Newhall

20 – Barb Newhall (Pastor Kathryn's mother)
24 – Barb Crawford
27 – Allison Hall

Back Pew Humor: Seven Church Signs Buffalo Will Never Use?

- The fact that there's a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.
- What section would you prefer in the afterlife? Smoking or non-smoking?
- Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.

- Honk if you love Jesus. Text and drive if you want to meet him.
- When you throw mud, you lose ground.
- Call 911; our pastor is on fire!
- If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence.

Buffalo UMC March Events

- March 1: UMW is hosting the World Day of Prayer (9-11 am). Everyone is welcome.
- March 8: Popping corn at Garfield (8 am); the profits go to HACAP for the backpack program
- March 11: Monthly meeting of the Spic 'n Span Church Cleaning Crew (9:00 am)
- March 14: Neighborhood Pot Luck (11:30 am)
- March 20: Administrative Board Meeting (4:00 pm)
- March 21: UMW Meeting (9:30 am)
- March 28: Taize Lenten Prayer Service (7:00 pm)

Bertram UMC: March Events

- March 2: Pancake Breakfast at the Bertram Town Hall (8:00-11:00 am)
- March 5: Preparing & serving lunch, Mission of Hope

History of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, occurring 6 ½ weeks before Easter (between February 4 and March 11, depending on the date of Easter). In the early Christian church, the length of the Lenten celebration varied, but eventually it began 6 weeks (42 days) before Easter. In the 7th century, 4 days were added before the first Sunday in Lent in order to establish 40 fasting days, in imitation of Jesus Christ's fast in the desert.

It was the practice in Rome for penitents to begin their period of public penance on the first day of Lent. They were sprinkled with ashes, dressed in sackcloth, and obliged to remain apart until they were reconciled with the Christian community on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter.

Buffalo's New Mission Statement:

***A welcoming fellowship reaching out
and caring for the community.***

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1000 30th St
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