

# Buffalo United Methodist Church

March 2022

1000 30<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



## Shiver Me Timbers

by Bishop Laurie Haller

For some reason, the phrase “Shiver Me Timbers!” came to mind on the last day of our pilgrimage to Israel. Our group from Iowa and the Dakotas was spending the day outside on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and the weather was raw. The freezing rain was steady, and many of us had umbrellas, which we shared with others. I confess that, despite dressing in layers, I was shivering, not just from the cold, but from the sense that the presence of the Holy Spirit was in this place.

On the last day before returning home, we ended our pilgrimage by gathering in a small building near the Garden Tomb for a worship service and holy communion. Even as I was preaching, I was still shivering, my teeth were literally chattering, and my body could not quiet itself because I was so cold. The phrase, “Shiver me timbers” first received recognition in the 1950 Disney adaption of Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*, where Long John Silver used it to express shock and surprise (“Here’s Jim Hawkins, shiver me timbers!”).

Shiver me timbers! In a few weeks, on March 2, we will begin our annual Lenten journey toward Easter. In anticipation, God is calling you and me to make a commitment to live out our faith and make a difference in our world by “practicing” resurrection in our daily life. And how do we practice resurrection? By welcoming and walking beside all kinds of people traveling the way of spiritual formation. In fact, most of these pilgrims don’t look, talk, dress, act, believe, or think exactly like you and me.

Remember, it was women, those who had no status in society, who arrived at the tomb first. One of them

was Mary Magdalene, the most marginal of the women, who appears in all four gospel accounts of the resurrection. All we’re told about Mary Magdalene before she met Jesus is that she was possessed by seven devils and had been delivered. Sometimes those on the edge of respectability experience resurrection first and show us the way.

Other times, it is you and I who are called to invite others to follow Jesus in our Lenten journey. That’s ultimately what forgiveness is about, isn’t it? The one thing I’ve heard over and over from people in the churches I’ve served is that forgiveness is a process, and it is very hard work. But when we forgive, we practice resurrection. We not only offer resurrection and new life to others, but by forgiving, we experience resurrection ourselves. You and I practice resurrection by reaching out to all people who are shivering and yearning to know Christ’s love.

Do you, too, want to practice resurrection? Then, shiver me timbers, let go of control! Funny thing about resurrection: it always takes us totally unaware. We can’t control resurrection, and we can’t make it happen. We can only be open to resurrection, wonder, and be amazed. Unfortunately, all too often, we try to control God and attempt to enlist God as our valued and trustworthy assistant as we change the world. We ask God to help us in our work, so we try to orchestrate resurrection ourselves, rather than ask if we can help God in God’s work of birthing new life.

*The complete text of Bishop Haller’s February 14 commentary is available on her blog [Leading from the Heart](#).*

The Ecumenical Center is in need of donations of money, personal care items, clothing, toilet tissue, dish soap, and dry laundry soap. Judy Hackney (319-393-0188) will be glad to transport the donations.

## UMCOR Sunday: March 27

On UMCOR Sunday, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief, an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. Together, Methodist congregations serve as ambassadors for Christ, helping our neighbors navigate ongoing global trauma. Now, more than ever, we are called to extend healing and hope. Through our gifts and support, we partner with God and God's people to strengthen Christ's loving presence in a hurting world.

From Haiti to Afghanistan, Louisiana to Bosnia and Herzegovina, UMCOR works to meet people's daily needs such as health care, food, hygiene, and job security. UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences, and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities, to respond to those left most vulnerable during this challenging time.

And UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR cultivates relationships and helps communities rebuild, often for years after the disaster. In 2020 United Methodists, through UMCOR:

- assisted nearly 325,000 survivors of climate and humanitarian disasters in 52 countries,
- funded 133 UMCOR disaster response projects totaling more than \$8 million, and
- trained 1,755 individuals in effective disaster ministry.

Please be an ambassador for Christ to relieve suffering by giving generously as we collect a Noisy Offering on Sunday, March 27, in support of UMCOR. Remember: 100% of your donation is used directly for people in need.

## Administrative Board Meeting

A summary of key issues addressed at the February 16 meeting:

- Buffalo's financial records for 2021 were audited and found accurate and correct. Barb Crawford will be sending a report to the Iowa Conference.
- The boiler's motor sprung a leak in January. Brecke replaced the motor, did a thorough inspection, and recommended the removal of the asbestos in the furnace area. Potential asbestos removal companies will be contacted in the next few months to determine how we should proceed.
- Because of a conflict, the date of the Pancake Breakfast date was changed to April 2. The Board decided that the bake sale money will remain with the church, and the profits from the pancake breakfast meal will be donated equally to the Katherine McAuley Center and Justice for Our Neighbors.
- The Board discussed sponsoring an exercise class for seniors. Carla Lindball will investigate the possibility of having a class at Buffalo.
- Pastor Carol informed the Board that she would not marry a same-sex couple in the church, but she would be willing to help find another pastor to perform the ceremony. The consensus of the Board members was that Buffalo should be available for these services.
- Pastor Carol suggested that Buffalo might consider organizing a "support group"—not a professional counseling service, just a chance to visit and share. She encouraged everyone to celebrate what we are already doing well while asking ourselves "what can we do better?"

*The next Administrative Board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m.*

## A Potpourri of Buffalo News and Upcoming Events

• During the Worship Service on Sunday, February 20, Tom and Pat Ferguson were honored by the Buffalo United Methodist Women for their service to the church. They each received a Special Mission Recognition Pin and a certificate. Many thanks for their service in so many ways.

• On February 20, Bob and Margie Marris presented the church with a Jerusalem Cross made from olive wood. During their recent two-week trip to the

Holy Land with Bishop Haller, the cross was purchased in Bethlehem in a shop where the cross was made by local artisans.

- At 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, everyone is welcome to spend a few minutes in the church vacuuming, cleaning bathrooms, dusting, and making our favorite church building sparkle and shine.
- On March 10, the day after we have cleaned the church, we can all gather for

the monthly Neighborhood Potluck, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Beverages, tableware, and stimulating conversations will be provided for one and all.

- At 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 14 everyone is welcome to come to the church and make oodles of noodles. The noodles will be sold at the annual Pancake Breakfast on April 2. Let Barb Crawford know if you can help (319-826-2468).

# March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>This month's calendar includes suggestions for encouraging your spiritual enrichment during the season of Lent.</b>		1 <i>Pray for peace in Ukraine.</i>	2 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Service (11:00 am - 1:00 pm)	3 <i>Practice a listening prayer: invite God to speak to you.</i>	4 <b>World Day of Prayer</b> Service (5:00 pm)	5 <i>Read and reflect on the lectionary readings for March.</i>
6 8:45 am Worship Service <b>Communion Sunday</b>	7 <i>Read the Bible in search of a new perspective on your life.</i>	8 <i>Spend 30 minutes in silence, connecting with God.</i>	9 Clean Church (9:00 am)	10 Neighbor- hood Potluck (11:30 am)	11 <i>Dedicate a typical meal time to prayer.</i>	12 <i>Compose a personal or family mission statement.</i>
13 8:45 am Worship Service	14 Noodle Making (8:00 a.m.)	15 <i>Pray for racial and social justice for all people.</i>	16 Administra- tive Board Meeting (10:00 am)	17 UMW (9:30 am)	18 <i>Fast from Social Media.</i>	19 <i>Send a note or text to someone stuck at home.</i>
20 8:45 am Worship Service	21 <i>Donate to the Ecumenical Center 3 things you no longer need.</i>	22 <i>Send someone a "thank you" note.</i>	23 Spring Bible Study with Pastor Carol (9:30 a.m.)	24 <i>Read Micah 6:8 and reflect on how to apply those words to your life.</i>	25 <i>Invite someone to share a meal with you.</i>	26 <i>Pray for 20 minutes, focusing on a sacred word.</i>
27 8:45 am Worship Service <b>UMCOR Sunday</b>	28 <i>Recite the Lord's Prayer to yourself, slowly, phrase by phrase.</i>	29 <i>Compose a psalm of lament.</i>	30 Spring Bible Study with Pastor Carol (9:30 a.m.)	31 <i>Compose a psalm of joy.</i>	<b>Invite all your friends and neighbors to Buffalo's Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 2, 8:00-11:00 a.m.</b>	

## March Birthdays:

17 – Pastor Jenny Seylar  
24 – Barb Crawford

20 - Pastor Kathryn Newhall  
27 – Allison Hall

## Wedding Anniversaries: Alas, no wedding anniversaries in March.

## Lectionary Readings for March

March 6: Gospel of Luke 4: 1-13 & Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

March 13: Gospel of Luke 13: 31-35

Philippians 3: 17, 4-1

March 20: Gospel of Luke 13: 1-9 & Psalm 63: 1-8

March 27: Gospel of Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

& Psalm 32

## Buffalo United Methodist Women

Everyone is invited to the March meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 9:30 a.m. Judy Hackney will provide the program after a short business meeting. Items to be discussed will include the annual Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale on April 2. The profits from donations for the breakfast will be divided between the Catherine McAuley Center and Justice for our Neighbors. The profits from the bake sale, including the sale of Buffalo's irresistibly delicious home made noodles, will go in to the church treasury.

### Pastor Carol's Office Hours

Tuesday Mornings: 9-11:00 a.m.

## Buffalo Calendar

### Church Events during Lent

- March 2: Ash Wednesday Service (between the hours of 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.)  
March 4: World Day of Prayer Service (5:00 p.m.)  
March 9: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)  
March 10: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)  
March 16: Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)  
March 17: United Methodist Women (9:30 a.m.)  
March 23 & 30: Spring Bible Study (9:30 a.m.)  
April 2: Pancake Breakfast (8:00-11:00 a.m.)

### Easter Week Services:

- April 14: Maundy Thursday Service at Bertram UMC (5:30 p.m.)  
April 17: Easter Sunrise Service (7:00 a.m.), followed by Easter Morning Breakfast (7:30 a.m.) and regular Worship Service at 8:45 a.m.

### Major Events in 2022:

- Rummage Sale: Thursday & Friday, June 9-10  
Ice Cream Supper: Saturday, July 23  
Bazaar with Lunch: October 22

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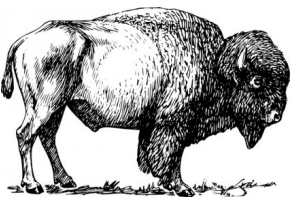
## World Day of Prayer

### **“Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action”**

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions in more than 170 countries and regions who come together to observe a common day of prayer. Observed on the first Friday in March, World Day of Prayer brings together all people of different races, cultures, and traditions in fellowship, understanding, and action. In this movement, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world. Men and women of all faiths are invited to meet here at Buffalo at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4, for a 30-minute service of music, informed prayer, and a renewed commitment to prayerful action.

### **Spring Bible Study**

A series of four Bible study sessions on Wednesdays in March and April will be led by Pastor Carol. These conversations will focus on important women in the scriptures. The meetings on March 23, March 30, April 6, & April 13 will begin at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited, even gentlemen.



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