

Buffalo United Methodist Church

March 2024

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



A Song for Every Season

Excerpt from a Lenten Message by Rev. Brian Williams

There's a season for everything

*and a time for every matter under the heavens:
a time for giving birth and a time for dying,
a time for planting and a time for uprooting what was
planted. . . .*

*a time for tearing and a time for repairing,
a time for keeping silent and a time for speaking,
a time for loving and a time for hating,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

~from chapter 3 in *Ecclesiastes*

One of the things I love doing, and have since I was in high school, is collecting records. I have recently become more intent on expanding the variety of albums in my collection. So, for Christmas, I asked my family members for one thing and one thing only: gift me one album on vinyl that means a lot to you. I left the prompt open-ended and the result was even better than I could have planned. My dad got me a John Denver album – the first album he owned when he got out of the Navy in the '70s. My in-laws got me an Oak Ridge Boys Christmas album that goes back to when they first met and started a family. My brother-in-law got me a Nickel Creek album, which made for a great excuse to invite him to go watch them perform in Des Moines (which is tonight the day I'm writing this)! I could go on, but is clear music has an unmistakable place in our lives.

Of course, as a millennial, I know that my relationship with a record player is probably different than some of you who might read this. At one time records, besides the radio, were pretty much the only way you listened to music. If you wanted to listen to an album on your own, you had to have it on vinyl. Now, with the invention of the internet and services like Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube, I can listen to any music from any era whenever I want. I can make a playlist that has Taylor Swift, The Statler Brothers, and AC/DC on it

and listen to it while I take a run. What an amazing progression of technology in a short amount of time!

As such, when I look at records, I am more selective. I don't need to have every single album that piques my interest. Instead, I tend to buy records that I want to accompany certain moments, feelings, or seasons in my life. For example, what do I want to have playing while I am cooking dinner or folding laundry? What kind of music do I want to play to cheer me up or to calm me down? Which album would be perfect to play in Autumn as the leaves turn, in Winter as I snuggle up with a warm beverage or wrap presents, in Spring as the world comes into bloom, or in Summer when I am ready to soak up the sun? What is the soundtrack to this time and place in my life?

It reminds me of the writer of Ecclesiastes and the oft-quoted scripture seen above There is a season for everything. Sometimes those seasons are lush and vibrant and sometimes those seasons are sparse and barren—but it is all part of it. And every season leads into another. . . . As we enter the season of Lent this week, a season of wilderness, repentance, and preparation, I wonder what kind of album you have spinning right now. Is it one of readiness and eagerness to get yourself back on track in your life and faith; something that inspires you? Is it a poignant album with thought pauses and sparse tones as you slow down and reflect this season? Is it one that tells a beautiful, yet gritty story of love, loss, and repair? Or maybe you're struggling to find music in your life right now—that's okay, too. The thing about listening to records is there is always a period of silence before you flip to side B. . .

Wherever you find yourself coming into this Lenten season, I want you to ponder: what music is playing in our life now? What song or album is the perfect accompaniment to whatever season of life you find yourself in? What is the soundtrack to your life, figurative or literal?

[Rev. Williams serves the United Methodist Church of Pella. A complete version of his message can be found in the "Abiding in Hope" series on the Iowa UMC Conference website:

<https://www.iaumc.org/>]

One Great Hour of Sharing

UMCOR Sunday

On Sunday, March 10 we will collect a “Noisy Offering” for One Great Hour of Sharing. This UMCOR offering will be used to support disaster relief, humanitarian aid, and development projects worldwide. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian arm of The United Methodist Church.

UMCOR’s work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities cannot recover on their own.

Your monetary donations underwrite UMCOR’s “costs of doing business.” This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. To learn more about this impressive humanitarian program, please visit the committee’s website at www.umcor.org.

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Neighborhood Potluck

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 14th for a neighborly potluck. Feel free to bring along a friend, neighbor, relative, or anyone who might benefit from a good meal and good conversation. As always, beverages and tableware will be provided.

Church Cleaning

Have you ever noticed the consistent cleanliness of our church building? Whether you are joining a group in the meeting room or working in the kitchen or visiting a bathroom or sitting down in your favorite pew for a Sunday Morning Worship Service, you know the space will be clean and welcoming.

This order and cleanliness does not occur automatically. It requires members and friends of the congregation volunteering to come to the church and work with Chris and Linda and Pat and the rest of the gang to run the vacuum cleaner and dust the shelves and remove the litter. Everyone is welcome to join the crew at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13 as they prepare the church for Lenten services and Easter Sunday. Everything should be wrapped up by 10:30, no special skills required.

Oodles and Boodles of Noodles

Yes, we will again be selling noodles at this year’s Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 13. The issue is that for us to sell noodles in April, we need to start making noodles in March. Thus this invitation:

Noodle Making

Beginning at 8: a.m.

Monday, March 18

Everyone is welcome (yes, even men).

Any amount of time you can help is appreciated.

Don’t forget the words spoken by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the noodle makers, for they will all be welcome in Heaven’s Holy Kitchen.”

World Day of Prayer

The international World Day of Prayer takes place annually on the first Friday of March (March 1, 2024). This year the featured country is Palestine, and the worship theme is, “I beg you, bear with one another in love.” Pastor Carol has scheduled a prayer service at Buffalo beginning at 4:00 p.m. on March 1.



Mission of Hope

Our neighbor, located at 1700 B Ave NE in Cedar Rapids, offers three ongoing support services:

- Daily Bible Study and Prayer

- Weekday Meals

(averaging over 100 meals per week)

- Revolution Recovery (Friday Nights, 6:00 PM)

In the back of Buffalo’s Worship Center is a large box labeled “Mission of Hope.” Donations of cereal, canned goods, personal hygiene products, and toilet paper are greatly appreciated. Donations of money are also most welcome. Checks may be made payable to Buffalo with a note indicating the donation is for Mission of Hope.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. ~Isaiah 40:31</i>					1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 Worship Service & Communion (9:00 am)	4	5	6	7	8	9 Daylight Savings Time begins tomorrow
10 Worship Service (9:00 am) Noisy Offering	11 Noodle Making (8:00 a.m.)	12	13 Clean Church (9:00 am)	14 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	15	16
17 Worship Service (9:00 am) St. Patrick's Day	18	19 First Day of Spring!!!!	20 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 am)	21 United Women of Faith (9:30 am)	22	23
24 Palm Sunday Worship Service (9:00 am)	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thurs. Service (4:00 pm) followed by Covered Dish supper	29 Good Friday	30
31 Easter Svc (7:30 am), Breakfast, & Worship Svc (9:00 am)	April 1	<i>Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime. ~Martin Luther</i>				

March (and early April) Birthdays:

20 - Pastor Kathryn Newhall
27 - Allison Hall

3 - Carol Franklin
20 - Jo Lutz
April 1: - Bob Fish

17 - Pastor Jenny Seylar
24 - Barb Crawford

Wedding Anniversaries: No anniversaries for March.

Teacher Toolbox Store

Please continue to bring in items you may recycle, such as toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, metal juice can lids, bottle caps of all kinds from soda, detergent, vitamins, spray cans etc. A complete list of items is available in the meeting room or by requesting a list from Chris (goch1970@live.com). Thanks to everyone who has already donated or will be donating. The donations are greatly appreciated.



Buffalo Calendar

Dates to remember

March

- 1: World Day of Prayer Service (4:00 p.m.)
- 3: Communion Sunday
- 10: Daylight Savings Time begins
UMCOR Sunday--Noisy Offering
- 11: Noodle Making Fiesta (8:00 a.m.)
- 13: Church Cleaning Crew (9:00 a.m.)
- 14: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)
- 20: Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
- 21: United Women in Faith (9:30 a.m.)
- 22: Card/Game Playing (12:30 p.m.); location TBA
- 24: Palm Sunday
- 28: Maundy Thursday Service (4:00 p.m.) followed by covered dish/sloppy joe/potluck supper
- 31: Easter Sunrise Service (7:30 a.m.) followed by "light breakfast" & worship service (9:00 a.m.)

April

- 13 Annual Pancake Breakfast (8:00 – 11:00 a.m.)
Bake & Noodles Sale

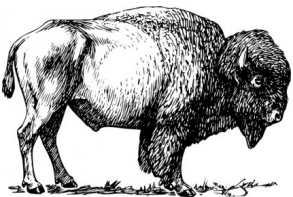
Did You Know?

- That \$54.25 was collected for Disability Awareness Sunday in February.
- That we continue to collect Hy-Vee receipts for Garfield Elementary School. A large glass jar in the back of the sanctuary is patiently waiting for your receipts.
- That the United Women in Faith will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 21. A short business meeting will be followed by a timely program presented by Pastor Carol.
- That everyone (men and women, young and old, tall and short, Hawkeye fans and Cyclone fans, Republicans and Democrats) is welcome to attend and participate in the United Women in Faith meetings.
- That the Ecumenical Center needs donations of clothing, personal care items, dish soap, dry laundry soap, and money. Judy Hackney will be glad to transport any donations to the Center.
- That a few 2024 Buffalo Calendars are still available in the Worship Center.

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1000 30th St NE

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Since 1876

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