

Buffalo United Methodist Church

March 2023

1000 30th Street NE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402



Pastor Carol's Desk

Hello Spring!

Maybe I'm a few weeks early, but it soon will be here. I can hardly wait. Thinking about waiting, there are times in our lives when we have to wait, some times for phone calls, some times at a Doctor's office, some times at a traffic light. Do we like to sit and wait? Maybe not, but we can use this waiting time to talk with God. I am sure when I am at the stop light, people are probably wondering "Why is she singing?" when in fact I am talking to God.

As I have said many times, I believe we should talk with God where ever and when ever we feel the desire. There need not be a specific hour set aside for talking with God. While we are waiting, we should use this opportunity to mellow out. We just need to take a deep breath and say, "Okay, God, what should I do now?"

And we may also use this time to give ourselves a little hug.

*Blessings,
Pastor Carol*

World Day of Prayer

The international World Day of Prayer takes place annually on the first Friday of March. This year the featured country is Taiwan, and the worship theme is "I Have Heard About Your Faith." Through preparation and participation in the worship service, women worldwide learn how their sisters in other countries, languages, and cultures understand the Biblical passages in their context. They learn of the concerns and needs of those women and to empathize and feel in solidarity with them.

*Buffalo's World Day of Prayer service will be held
at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3.*

Earthquake Victims in Turkey and Syria Need Our Help

Please consider giving a donation to UMCOR. The Methodist global ministry is actively supporting organizations that are providing tents, heaters, blankets, warm clothes, first aid kits, and ready-to-eat meals for people in Turkey and Syria whose homes have been destroyed by the recent earthquakes. Please put UMCOR Turkey on the notation line of your check if you decide to donate through our church. Thank you.

*"Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers.
You won't always find answers, but you will always
find Jesus." ~Father Mike Schmitz*

Neighborhood Pot Luck

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on March 9 for a hot meal. Price of admission: one dish to share. Beverages, table settings, napkins, warm welcomes, good conversations, laughter, and prayer provided free of charge.



SHARING FOOD + TELLING STORIES

Ecumenical Center Donations

The Ecumenical Center (601 Second Avenue SE) has been busy in this cold weather. The center is in need of money (for utility payments), personal care items, clothing, toilet tissue, dish soap, and dry laundry soap. Judy Hackney (319-393-0188) volunteers at the center and will be glad to transport your donations.

"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could." ~St. Gregory Nazianzen

Three Sign-Up Sheets

In the Worship Center there are sheets where you can sign up to help with one or more of the following:

- Sunday Morning Worship Service Lectionary Reader
- Worship Service Altar Flowers
- Landscape, Flower Gardening, and Tree Care

We are in special need of someone who will look after our newly planted trees. In the last two years, we have planted 26 new trees, and we will be adding two native Paw Paw trees this spring. These trees don't require daily care, but we do need someone to ensure they receive water during dry spells.

"These special holidays give rise to various liturgical calendars that suggest we should mark our days not only with the cycles of the moon and seasons, but also with occasions to tell our children the stories of our faith community's past so that this past will have a future, and so that our ancient way and its practices will be rediscovered and renewed every year." ~Brian D. McLaren

Six Bison Blog Posts in 2023

Here is a list of titles and brief descriptions of the Bison Blog posts to the church website in January and February of this year.

- "What Should I Give Up For Lent?" (23 Feb). The author suggests that when we give something up for Lent, our goal should be to create more room in our lives for God and our relationship with him.
- "The Brief, Wondrous Life of Little Leo" (18 Feb). This essay offers a wonderful portrait of a family's love for a child unable to walk or talk.
- "Two Types of Healing Prayer Every Christian Should Know" (5 Feb). An essay by a physician, describing practical strategies for daily prayers.
- "I Became a Pastor During the Pandemic" (23 Jan). An Anglican priest in Canada recounts in a beautifully written essay his experiences learning how to serve people dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- "I'm Still Thinking About Martin Luther King Class" (16 Jan). A pastor reflects on the values and historical impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- "Marked for a Purpose" (5 Jan). A reflection on the Baptism of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, written by Kathleen Norris, one of America's premier essay writers. This blog post includes a marvelous painting by the American artist Ivey Hayes.

United Women in Faith

The meeting scheduled for February 16 was canceled because of snow and was rescheduled for February 23. Our guest speaker, Barb Oakland, was able to modify her schedule so she could give her "Who Can We Be Together?" mission presentation. Barb has been active in UMW/UWF for many years and has served the district board in many capacities. The next UWF meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 16.



A History of Lent

In the Christian church, Lent is a period of penitential preparation for Easter. In Western churches it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides a 40-day period for fasting and abstinence (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

A period of preparation and fasting likely has been observed before the Easter festival since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. It was a time of preparation of candidates for baptism and of penance for sinners who had been excluded from Communion and were preparing for their restoration. As a sign of their penitence, they wore sackcloth and were sprinkled with ashes. This form of public penance began to die out in the 9th century. It became customary for all the faithful to be reminded of the need for penitence and of their own mortality by receiving a *memento mori* in the form of ashes on their foreheads on the first day of Lent--hence the name Ash Wednesday.

In the early centuries, fasting rules were strict. One meal a day was allowed in the evening, and meat, fish, eggs, and butter were forbidden. In the West these fasting rules have gradually been relaxed; however, the emphasis on penitential practice and almsgiving remains, and many Christians choose to give up specific pleasures during Lent as a way to foster simplicity and self-control.

[Adapted from the Encyclopedia Britannica]

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"It is what we do routinely, not what we do rarely, that delineates the character of a person." ~Joan D. Chittister			1	2	3 World Day of Prayer Service (5:00 pm)	4
5 9:00 am Worship Service Communion	6	7 Purim (Jewish religious holiday)	8 Clean Church (9:00 am)	9 Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 am)	10	11 <i>Daylight Savings Time begins tomorrow, 12 March</i>
12 9:00 am Worship Service	13	14 <i>Pi Day</i>	15 Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 am)	16 United Women of Faith (9:00 am)	17 St. Patrick's Day	18
19 9:00 am Worship Service UMCOR Offering	20 Spring Equinox	21	22	23 First day of Ramadan (Muslim)	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	31	April Fool's Day

March Birthdays: 17 – Pastor Jenny Seylar
24 – Barb Crawford

20 - Pastor Kathryn Newhall
27 – Allison Hall

Wedding Anniversaries: No Buffalo wedding anniversaries to celebrate in March

Welcome Pamela

On Sunday, February 19, Buffalo welcomed Pamela Boyett as a new member of our congregation. There's no question Pamela will be a great addition to our community. Please introduce yourself and let her know how pleased we are she has chosen to join our congregation.



Church Cleaning Date

We look forward to working together to clean the church. Please come and help dust and vacuum at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8. In February some cupboards in the kitchen were cleaned, the pews in the sanctuary were sanitized, and plant debris in the rocks by the sanctuary windows was removed. Thanks to everyone who helped in February and thanks to everyone who will be joining us on March 8.

Hy-Vee Receipts for Garfield Elementary

We continue to collect Hy-Vee grocery and gas receipts to help support educational projects at Garfield Elementary School. There is a large glass jar in the back of the sanctuary for the receipts. Thank you.

Buffalo Calendar

March 3 (Friday): World Day of Prayer Service
(5:00 p.m.)
March 8: Church Cleaning (9:00 a.m.)
March 9: Neighborhood Potluck (11:30 a.m.)
March 15: Administrative Board Meeting (10:00 a.m.)
March 16: United Women of Faith (9:30 a.m.)
March 19: UMCOR "One Great Hour of Sharing"
(Worship Service "Noisy Offering")
April 2: Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week
April 6: Maundy Thursday
April 7: Good Friday
April 9: Easter Sunday (including Easter sunrise service
at Buffalo)
April 15 (Saturday): Pancake Breakfast (8 to 11 am)
June 8 & 9: Rummage Sale
August 19 (Saturday): Buffalo Family Function
October 28 (Saturday): Fall Bazaar

Special Offering for March

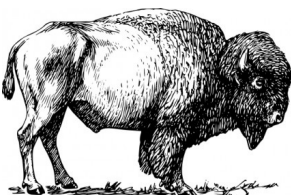
The One Great Hour of Sharing

We will collect a "noisy offering" for UMCOR on Sunday, March 19. This Sunday collection enables the United Methodist Committee on Relief to reach out through world wide ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. Our UMCOR donation at this time may be particularly important because of the Methodist Church's vigorous support efforts for the people devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. We collected \$97.87 for Disability Awareness Sunday in February.

*"Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves. . . .
What is it that stands between us and God? Between us
and our brothers and sisters? Between us and life, the life
of the Spirit? Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out,
without a moment's hesitation." ~Catherine Doherty*

*"Like a great waterwheel, the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls,
softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed
of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us
the spiritual journey of a lifetime." ~Joan D. Chittister*

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Since 1876

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